

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received **APR 19 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic B.P.O.E. Lodge #1160
and/or common Marshfield Elks Temple

2. Location

street & number 195 South Second Street N/A not for publication
city, town Coos Bay N/A vicinity of Fourth Congressional District
state Oregon code 41 county Coos code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Security Bank of Coos County
street & number 503 Spruce Street
city, town Myrtle Point N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97458

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Coos County Courthouse
street & number 99 East Second
city, town Coquille state Oregon 97423

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1982 federal state county local
depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office
city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

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 <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Temple of Marshfield B.P.O.E. Lodge #1160 is a two-story block with square ground plan measuring 100x100 feet, located on the northeast corner of South Second and Anderson Streets in the heart of downtown Coos Bay. The building was designed by William G. Chandler and constructed 1919-1920. The informal opening was July 3, 1920, and the grand opening was September 5 and 6, 1920.

Typical of traditional Elks buildings ante-dating the Great Depression, the structure was designed to house commercial establishments on its lower floor and the lodge hall and subsidiary rooms on the upper floor. The commercial establishments were entered through "inverted bay" openings on the ground floor centered between the columns at various locations. Access to the lodge was gained through the main, round-arched portal centered on the west elevation facing Second Street. Today, the building is occupied by two commercial establishments: "The Velvet Teasel", a pottery and gift shop on the corner, and a barber shop in an adjacent bay to the north facing Second Street.

The building occupies a quarter block and has two blind sides: one to the north facing the five-story Chandler Hotel, and one to the east facing a single-story retail structure. At one time there were windows facing east, but these were bricked in for code compliance, apparently, when the adjacent structure was constructed.

The two street facades originally presented almost identical and symmetrical fenestration. The ground story commercial fronts were wood frame window sections captured between stucco columns. The window sections consisted of a paneled sill approximately 18" high, above which was placed a plate glass window. The top of the glass was supported by a horizontal wood muntin over which were five panes of glass, some of which were operable as transoms. The top of this window assembly was nearly the same as the interior ceiling height, or approximately 13 feet. Above this fenestration is a corbelled concrete belt course. The belt course carries the brick facing which covers the exterior of the second floor below a concrete cornice. The upper floor windows are arcuated, and window openings are trimmed with a stacked stretcher course. The sill of same is a continuous soldier course which amplifies the horizontality of the concrete components of the facade. Casement windows in the upper floor have eight rectangular panes in each leaf with a fan light over the pair that echoes the larger scale fan light over the Second Street (main) entrance.

On the lower level on the south and west elevations, each facade is comprised of two sets of trabeated rectangular openings symmetrical around a building entry. The entry to the west on Second Street was obviously the main entry with a pair of doors under a fan light with the legend "B.P.O.E. No. 1160." The portal was constructed of stucco with joints articulated horizontally on the face and radially inside the fan light surround. Bracketing the main entry was a pair of large steel or wrought iron decorative light fixtures. The entry to the south on Anderson Avenue more closely resembled articulation of lower floor window openings, maintaining the rhythm of the divided transom windows above and the rectangular openings in lieu of the arched opening at the main entry. The architect punctuated the lower floor for entrances to the individual commercial establishments, typically at mid-bay, using angled walls to develop an "inverted bay window" to maximize display at the point of entry.

(continued)

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The upper story has 13 window openings per side. On the west side, the third and fourth bays are blind, revealing the location of a second story fireplace, the brick chimney of which projects above the cornice line. On the south elevation, the fourth bay from the southeast corner has been remodeled to a doorway for a fire escape constructed in 1959.

Because the building was constructed in a marshy area and so near the old mill slough, the foundation is on piling. However, in 1953 a contract was let to level the floor and pour concrete caps on the piling. This work has apparently stabilized the structure adequately.

Over the years, the street level facade has been altered with coverings of plywood, stucco, new windows, conduits, overhangs (south facade), glass block, etc. In addition, the City has erected a pedestrian mall canopy in front of the west elevation. The bays in the southeast corner have been altered so that pedestrians may walk "through the corner" of the building. In the early history of the building, canvas awnings were added to the building to shade the south and west exposures from the sun and to protect pedestrians from the rain. However, in 1946-1947, the Elks moved part of the lodge to the north end of the lower floor. In the process, it seems the exterior was superficially remodeled on the lower floor. The result was a rather insensitive covering of several of the building's basic elements, including windows, columns, etc., and the addition of a canopy at the approximate height of the concrete belt course. Unfortunately, this treatment was continued to the Chandler Hotel's west facade with similar ignorance of the building's architectural essence. In 1975, another layer of material was added to the structure: T-11 plywood. A few years later, the mall canopy was completed which, together with the other materials, helps to effectively disguise the original architectural statement on the lower floor.

Fortunately, after some minor demolition, it was found that the changes mentioned above are completely reversible in that the finishes applied can be removed without trauma to the underlying structure. There is even one complete original window bay remaining, visible now from the interior of the third bay on the west side. The window assembly is complete, including the sill, paneled apron, transom hardware, ogee trim, etc., which can serve as a pattern for the building's restoration. In addition, preliminary inquiry of City staff has indicated that they will support a request to remove the mall canopy in front of the building. The City Council is expected to be receptive to the idea.

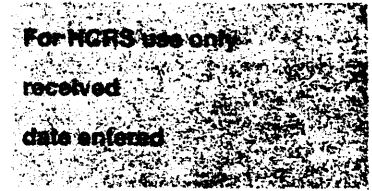
Interior features that harken back to the original design are limited to those found upstairs on the exterior walls. All of the ogee window and wainscot trim remain intact and in good condition. Most of the wood windows are deteriorated and will require replacement to match the existing. Due to the several interior remodeling projects undertaken by the Elks, few doors remain from the original. The ceramic finish on the fireplace upstairs dates back to at least the early 1940s and may be original. The flue furring is original and in good condition, but the mantel, originally composed of millwork with moldings, has been replaced with unadorned millwork.

There has been a consistent use of bearing blocks between the beams and columns at the old ceiling level. It is thought that this detail may remain exposed in the remodeled facility.

When the building was opened, it was reported that "Club rooms present a beautiful

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interior - a fitting complement to the handsome exterior of the building" and further; "Although not quite all of the furnishings have arrived, the rooms present a wonderfully attractive appearance. Rugs, hangings and tints harmonize delightfully, and the general effect is one of quiet elegance and restfulness. The suite comprises the following rooms: entrance hall and secretary's office, lodge room and ante room, reading room, writing room, card room with cigar counter, billiard room, ladies room, dressing rooms, banquet hall, and kitchen."¹

The exterior walls of the second floor were double wythe with hollow clay tile comprising the interior layer. A stucco layer, most of which is still intact, was placed over this material and painted to serve as the ground story finish.

One of the more interesting features of the building is its stylistic blend of two architectural styles: On the ground floor with its intended commercial use, is found the influence of the Chicago School. The rectangular, smooth-surface forms with ample glazing articulate the store fronts with inverted bays announcing their entrances. The upstairs, intended for Elks' use, identified with the more formal, brick articulated Georgian styles. It is interesting to note that one of the major components of the architectural composition on the upper level, the fan light, reappears at the principal entry on Second Street where the Elks entered their lodge building. It should be noted that there is considerable articulation given to the streetscape on Second Street by the interplay between rectangular openings on the upper levels in the Chandler Hotel and those on the street level in the Elks' Temple, the arched openings in the second level of the Temple amplify and carry around the corner that element begun in the lower floor of the French Renaissance hotel.

Restoration of the exterior will be facilitated by the pictorial records that are available. The interior elements such as trim, window detailing, the fireplace, etc. will be easily restored or replaced to match the existing. According to a structural engineer's report, the building is generally sound and requires only minor structural improvements. The brick joints appear to be sound and weather tight.

Considering the overall condition of the building, the harmless street level alterations, the availability of historic photographs and an intact section of ground story fenestration, the Temple of Marshfield B.P.O.E. Lodge #1160 makes an excellent candidate for restoration.

¹Coos Bay Times, July 7, 1920, page 3.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1919–1920 **Builder/Architect** William Garnett Chandler, architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Marshfield Elks Temple is a two-story Georgian style building of hollow clay tile faced with brick which was erected in 1919 and opened for use in 1920. It occupies a full quarter block at the northeast corner of Second Street and Anderson Avenue in downtown Coos Bay (Marshfield was renamed Coos Bay in 1944). It is being rehabilitated as the headquarters of the Security Bank of Coos County. In the course of Federal Deposit Insurance Company licensing of the new main office, the building was determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register by the State Historic Preservation Office on July 13, 1982, after new Section 106 regulations went into effect. The Marshfield Elks Temple meets National Register criterion "a" because it is locally significant as the area headquarters of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, a national fraternal organization, from the time the building was opened for use to 1980, when the building was vacated by Elks Lodge No. 1160. As was typical of projects of the type in the golden age of fraternal orders, construction was predicated on revenues to be realized from leasing ground story commercial space. The project reflected the vigor and optimism of B.P.O.E. Lodge No. 1160, which was composed of Marshfield's leading businessmen, in the years following the First World War. The Lodge hosted the state convention of Elks in its new building in 1921. Planning by the building committee had begun as early as 1915.

The Elks Temple is locally significant also under criterion "c" as a noteworthy and substantially intact example of commercial architecture in the Georgian period style. As originally constructed, it had conventional ground story commercial fronts consisting of plate glass windows with multi-paned top lights. Second story openings are identical on either of the building's 100-foot-long street facades and form an uninterrupted arcade of stilted round arches with multi-paned casement windows and fan lights. Whereas the ground story was modified beginning in the 1930s, the second story, crowned by an unadorned classical entablature of concrete, is unchanged.

The Marshfield Elks Temple was designed by William G. Chandler (1884–1959), a 1907 graduate of the University of Oregon course in engineering who was registered as an architect under the State's grandfather licensing act in 1919 and served on the initial State Board of Architect Examiners. Chandler was the second son of prominent San Francisco and Coos County businessman William S. Chandler, who spearheaded the drive for a new Elks Temple. The Elks Temple was, in fact, the last in a series of building projects financed by the elder Chandler which marked a shift in commercial development in Coos Bay west of Front Street and the waterfront. First in this series of developments, the Chandler Hotel, a five-story, brick faced French Renaissance style building of 1908, is adjacent to the north end of the Elks Building. The round-arched openings in its rusticated ground story which once harmonized with the second story arcade of the Elks Temple, are now obscured by later remodeling, but the exterior of the adjoining building is otherwise well-preserved. The main volume of the imposing neighbor of the Elks Temple, was designed by Portland architects Bennes, Hendricks and Toby. The hotel annex on the east side was designed by William G. Chandler in 1912. Another of the Chandler buildings, the Coke Building, designed by William G. Chandler c. 1910, is in the immediate vicinity, at the southeast corner of Second Street and Central Avenue.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Coos Bay, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0
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4	0	1	7	5	0
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4	8	0	2	1	3	0
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B

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C

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Verbal boundary description and justification The Marshfield Elks Temple occupies Lots 6 and 7 of Block 18 of the Town of Marshfield, City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Steve Clay, AIA

organization Samuels & Clay, Architects and Planners date December, 1982

street & number 375 North Fourth Street telephone (503) 269-5555

city or town Coos Bay state Oregon 97420

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 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date April 11, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date

5/19/83

for  Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The building committee of B.P.O.E. Lodge #1160, was composed of Dr. George E. Dix, Ben R. Chandler, J. W. Hildebrand, W. J. Conrad, Henry G. Kern, and A.H. Powers. W. S. Chandler was the financier.

William Sutton Chandler first came to Coos Bay from San Francisco in 1899 as a mining engineer for the Spreckels Co. "When the Southern Pacific Railroad bought out the Spreckels interests in 1906, Chandler resigned and turned his attention to other business ventures. He made his home in San Francisco and spent his summers at a beautiful summer home on Coos River. He invested money in the construction of several buildings in Marshfield, in addition to the new hotel, and he was president for many years of the town's First National Bank. As a result of his own business investments and inherited wealth, he was believed to be, at the time of his death, the most wealthy man of the region."¹

W. S. Chandler purchased the two lots for the Elks Lodge from a Mr. Waite in 1914 and sold them to Chandler Investment Co. in 1917. On August 27, 1919, Chandler sold these lots to the B.P.O.E. #1160 for \$10.00. Chandler then made a loan to the building fund for \$66,000 and hired his architect son, William Garnett Chandler, to design the structure for the Elks. For this effort, W. S. Chandler was given the title "Father of the Temple" at the Grand Opening ceremonies.

Dr. George Dix, the chairman of the building committee, was attracted to the Coos Bay area by lumbermen C. A. Smith and Albert H. Powers, who sought medical attention for loggers of the Smith-Powers Logging Company. Dr. Dix, trained at the famed Mayo Clinic, was one of the foremost surgeons in the area during his time as well as an accomplished agriculturist. "In 1918, he bought the old Mark Davis farm at the forks of Coos River. In the past 30-odd years," it was reported in 1952, "he has given constant study and effort to rehabilitating the exhausted and neglected soil so that today it is producing approximately six pounds of butterfat where one pound was previously produced. His scientific study of grass and the soil from which it springs is an important contribution to Coos agriculture."² Dr. Dix was a very successful dairyman and with G. H. O'Connor built the Brookmaid Dairy, one of the finest in the state in its time.

Ben R. Chandler was W. S. Chandler's fourth child. Ben became one of the most successful bankers of his time. He became the president of First National Bank of Coos Bay. He was interested with William Vaughn in logging and sawmill operations and with Charles Feller in the fish packing business. The area was helped substantially by developing better transportation links to commercial centers during Ben's tenure on the Oregon State Highway Commission.

J. W. Hildebrand, or "Hildy" as he was called, was of German extraction and had worked the Alaskan gold rush in 1899. He came to the Bay Area and started a hardware and plumbing store. In 1911, he joined forces with William Schroeder and the business expanded to include heating and sheet metal. The business was a great success, and Hildebrand later became a county commissioner.

W. J. Conrad was also drawn to Coos Bay by the C. A. Smith Lumber Co. where he was employed as a secretary to Arno Mereen, "A mechanical genius who was installing the largest

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and most up-to-date mill in the world in Coos Bay..."³ Conrad moved to his own business as a lumber and timber broker and aligned himself with A. E. Adelsperger. Together they purchased the holdings of the Gardner Mill Company on the Umpqua River. They divided up the tract and sold it to mills that were unable to handle the smaller lots and began converting the wood to marketable timber. These payrolls were the funds that built the town of Reedsport.

As the country headed into war, W. J. Conrad and his associates answered the Government's request for ships and developed the Marshfield Shipbuilding Company Yards which built many ships and provided jobs for many during a war time depression. After the War, Bill Conrad turned to marketing Port Orford white cedar. He joined forces with B. B. Osterind in a venture called the Coos Veneer and Box Company, which made battery boards and other sundry items. He later started the W. J. Conrad Lumber Company (still in operation) by purchasing a mill and producing dimension cedar lumber. Conrad developed domestic and foreign trade in this product including trade with Japan, England, Scotland, France and Germany where his products received high acclaim for their quality.

Henry J. Kern started his profession as a cooper, miner, fisherman, and repairman before he went into business with lumberman L.J. Simpson in a business called North Bend Iron Works. In 1903, he became sole owner of the successful business. Later, he became president of the First National Bank of North Bend until it was sold, then president of the West Coast Saving and Loan Association. Kern was not without political influence: He was on the school board, city council, and then became mayor of North Bend. Kern, like Hildebrand, also served as county commissioner.

Albert H. Powers is one of the most widely known of the area's pioneers. A park and the town of Powers bear his name. Powers came to Marshfield to work with C. A. Smith as vice-president and general manager of the Smith-Powers Logging Company. From 1928 to his death in 1930, he was president of the Powers-Davis Logging Company. In addition to founding the town of Powers, A. H. Powers served as a city councilman and school board director in Marshfield, and served on the Port Commission and on the State Fish Commission.

Thus, members of the building committee and its financier were among the primary forces shaping the community of Coos Bay. The Elks Temple testifies to the strength of their collaborative efforts.

The Elks Temple was designed by W. G. Chandler, W. S. Chandler's second son. He was born in New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada in 1884 and moved to Coos Bay with his parents. From 1898 to 1902, William attended the Portland Academy, a private highschool. From there he attended the University of Oregon, where he was a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity and captain of the University of Oregon football team. He graduated in 1907 with a B.S. in engineering. In 1919, when the State of Oregon began its registration and licensing of architects, he was the fourth architect registered in the state. He was also a member of the first Board of Examiners for the State of Oregon. Ben R. Chandler, his nephew, credits his uncle with designing four or five of the buildings which W. S. Chandler financed. These buildings were generally along Central Avenue, on both north and south sides, between Broadway and Second Streets. The Elks Temple, of course, was on Second and Anderson.

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The list is as follows: First National Bank Building (ca. 1907-1909), Coke Building (ca. 1910), the Irving Block (1910), Chandler Hotel Annex (1912), and the Elks Temple (1920). The Coos Bay Times attributed development of most of these buildings to W. S. Chandler. "He not only made possible the Elks Temple, but the Chandler Hotel, Coke Building, and the Irving Block."⁴ This father and son team, then, was in part responsible for the shift of the business district away from the waterfront. This shift was not met with enthusiasm on the part of Front Street merchants.

Construction of the Chandler Hotel marked the beginning of a shift of Marshfield's business district from Front Street to Central Avenue, which ran west away from the waterfront. The hotel was seen as a threat by many of the proprietors and patrons of Front Street hotels, not least because of its appeal to a more genteel clientele. Raymond McKeown recalled that on one occasion when a fire broke out in the Chandler Hotel's basement, a large crowd from Front Street gathered and cheered for the building to burn down.⁵

In each building in Coos Bay that W. G. Chandler designed, there was an exploration of a different architectural style which revealed Chandler's traditional Beaux Arts training at the University of Oregon and his early experience with C. B. Wells and other architectural firms in San Francisco. The Elks Temple was a combination of classical Georgian architecture and Chicago School design. The building's upper floor masonry facade captured between the strong lines of the concrete belt course and cornice created an interesting interplay of the two materials. The lower floor reinforces the interplay between concrete and brick with its smooth stucco surfaces. The lower rectangular openings each were carefully related to two arched windows in the upper floor which gives the building an appearance of structural solidarity and rhythmic coordination. In 1925 William G. Chandler moved to Los Angeles, where he practiced for the remainder of his career. He died September 30, 1959, at the age of 74.

Completion of the Elks Temple in 1920 gave members of B.P.O.E. #1160 a confidence and resolve to go to the state convention in 1920 in Portland and lobby vigorously for the 1921 state convention. The rail line had come to Coos Bay and provided a viable means to transport the number of people necessary to Coos Bay. The lobbyists were successful, and the Elks Convention in 1921 was one of the major events of the decade in Marshfield. The Elks had planned the event very carefully to attract a large crowd. The Chief of Staff of the Pacific Fleet sent four destroyers from the Pacific Fleet for the occasion. Congressman Clifton N. McArthur arranged to have navy seaplanes on display for the event. There was a fireworks program that was promoted to be "the biggest thing in the way of fireworks ever seen in this section."⁶ Since over 2,000 people were expected, which may have been 20 percent of the population of Marshfield, the Elks arranged for four special Pullman trains to transport and house the delegates. The trains were parked between Anderson and Hall Avenues, close to the Temple and the downtown. Lights and telephone serviced the trains during their stay. In spite of the Pullmans, the housing shortage was so acute that Secretary Fisher issued this letter to the citizens of Marshfield in the Coos Bay Times, August 15, 1921 edition.

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To the citizens of Coos Bay:

As the time is drawing near for the convention of the Elks' association of the state of Oregon, to be held at Marshfield August 18, 19 and 20, we want to call your attention to the importance of this convention and the cooperation that we will need from every loyal Coos Bay citizen. We are expecting some 2,000 visitors and are very desirous that the visitors go away with the highest esteem for our community.

The public of Coos Bay are going to be called upon to assist in various ways and I am sure that you will not fall down when the opportunity is given you to aid in making this convention a success.

First we will need your assistance in the matter of housing our visitors. Even residents of both Marshfield and North Bend are going to be asked in the next few days to turn over to our committee on housing all the rooms available or all the rooms that you can possibly spare for these visitors and to make them as comfortable as possible.

Second, we are going to need several hundred automobiles to transport our visitors to Coquille and to Charleston Bay, and again we are calling upon you to assist us in this stupendous task. If you care to donate your automobile for the occasion, please let our committee know at once.

Third, we need only mention that we are confident of the same hospitality that Coos Bay has displayed on various other occasions towards our visitors and if this is done, I am sure every visitor will go away with the deepest respect for Coos Bay and a warm spot in his heart for us that will make him yearn to return. We assure you that we will appreciate your efforts in entertaining Coos Bay's guests during the coming convention. 7

A prize fight was planned as well as a sumptuous seafood dinner on the Charleston Beach. The dinner was of such a scale that 50 members of Elks Lodge #1160 constructed tables and seats for the dinners.

The turnout at the beach yesterday of more than fifty members who built serving tables, tables extending about 2,000 feet which will accommodate 1,500 at one time and other work. It was a fine turnout and everybody worked hard and are happy. 8

Eighteen hundred crabs, four thousand pounds of salmon, and approximately two hundred fifty coal oil cans of clams and mussels were prepared. Industries in Marshfield and the neighboring community of North Bend closed all day Saturday and the businesses closed at noon Saturday so that area residents could have the opportunity to participate

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in the gala affair. The Corvallis Elks were to bring fine expert divers and swimmers for an exhibition as well as Harry Kean, a world renowned swimmer. Each lodge that had one brought its own band to compete with those of other lodges in the parade.

The Bay Area was a blur of activity for that long weekend in 1921. The entire state, through the Elks convention, was formally introduced to Marshfield and North Bend. It can be rightly assumed that this event allowed the Bay Area some notoriety and identity in the state and put Marshfield in a mode more conversant with inland commercial centers.

The Temple of Marshfield Lodge B.P.O.E. #1160, as the crowning example of Chandler-backed development projects, helped redefine the center of downtown. Together, the structures represent the Chandler family's social and economic contribution to Marshfield.

The Chandler buildings are complemented by two other buildings based on classical styles in the immediate vicinity. The old Coos Bay Post Office (1936) lies one-half block west of the Elks Temple on the south side of Anderson Avenue. The stripped classical or Modernistic post office is no longer in service but is being considered as a potential home for the Coos Art Museum. The old United States Bank Building, at cater corners to the Elks Temple, is a noteworthy example, locally, of the 20th Century Classical style, having a bowed and balustraded corner with colossal colonnade of the Ionic order.

The entire group of buildings in this section of the historic lumber port, subscribe to the theme that is suggested by Douthit, who discussed the Chandler Hotel and other notable structures in the following terms: "Architecture was one means by which the region's business, political and professional leaders could promote social and cultural improvement of their towns. The Chandler Hotel was a business venture motivated by Marshfield's improved economic prospects, but it was also a conscious act of architectural design and construction intended to lift Marshfield off of its frontier mud flats onto a more elevated level of existence."⁹

The proposed use of the old Elks Temple is as headquarters for Security Bank of Coos County and as professional offices and retail space. The Bank was started in 1919, the same year construction of the Temple was begun. The Bank administration has committed itself to restoring the building to its original exterior appearance. It is felt by the Bank as well as other community leaders that this building's registration and restoration may become a catalyst in the rejuvenation of Coos Bay's downtown core.

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- ¹ Nathan Douthit, The Coos Bay Region 1890-1944: Life on a Coastal Frontier.
(Coos Bay: River West Books, 1981), page 51.
- ² Emil Peterson, and Alfred Powers, A Century of Coos and Curry (Portland:
Binfords and Mort, 1952), page 528.
- ³ "Golden Jubilee Annual," Coos Bay Times, 1928, page 16, 17.
- ⁴ Coos Bay Times, August 18, 1921, page 6.
- ⁵ Nathan Douthit, The Coos Bay Region 1890-1944: Life on a Coastal Frontier.
(Coos Bay: River West Books, 1981), page 53.
- ⁶ Coos Bay Times, July 23, 1921.
- ⁷ Coos Bay Times, August 15, 1921.
- ⁸ Coos Bay Times, August 21, 1921.
- ⁹ Nathan Douthit, The Coos Bay Region 1890-1944: Life on a Coastal Frontier.
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