OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Owensboro M.R. / Odd Fellow

Item number

Page

Name: Odd Fellows Building (DAOB 86) Location: 200-204 W. 3rd St.

Owner: Odd Fellows Lodge Classification: Building

% Jim Browning 200 W. 3rd St. Specific Date: 1895

Description: Dominating the corner of St. Ann and Third St, the Odd Fellow Building is one of the most elaborate commercial building in the downtown. The three-story tan pressed brick building has an eclectic mix of Beaux-Arts and Italian Renaissance details. Architectural features are concentrated on the second and third floors and on the double facade of the building.

The first floor details on the Third Street storefront is covered by modern building fronts. Still visible are two of the slender cast iron columns that originally divided the streetfront into four sections. Also partially visible is a sheet metal dentilled cornice running above the storefronts. Dividing the storefronts is an inconspicuous central doorway leading to the upper floors. Arched window openings run along the first floor of the St. Ann side. A modern doorway provides access to a back hall.

The two upper stories of the building have a carefully balanced design. The corner location of the building is highlighted by a flat, slightly projecting tower rising upp all three stories. The tower effect is repeated at each end of the building. The second floor of the towers have tripartite windows topped with transoms. The central sections between the towers have paired windows also topped by transoms. The matching third story windows are topped by round arches of multi-paned blue glass. Round brick arches surround the top of these windows. The second and third story windows are unified by two story pilasters running between each bay of windows. Stone details such as quoins, pilaster capitals and bases, and window lintels contrast with the brick.

The roofline of the building is highlighted with elaborate tilework. The corner tower have a cherkerboard effect achieved by a mixture of buff and black tiles. Each tower is topped by a bracketed cornice. Mud-colored brick corbelling runs between the towers at the roofline. The Third St. roofline is interrupted by a stone panel reading I.O.O.F.

The rear of the building lacks any distinguishing features. The corner commercial location retains its original tin ceiling and corner entranceway.

Significance: The Odd Fellows Lodge is one of the most elaborate commercial buildings in the downtown and is an eclectic blend of Beaux-Arts and Italian Renaissance styles of architecture. It was constructed when secret societies

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were an important part of Owensboro's culture. The Brothers Lodge was organized in 1856 and had a steady growth until recent years. It had a membership of 125 men and owned half of the "Court Row" block when they built their present lodge in 1895. The first story has always been occupied by retail, the second floor by offices, and the third floor is the Odd Fellow lodge.

Acreage: Approximately .142 acres.

Verbal Boundary Description: The Odd Fellow Building is located on Census Tract 3, Traffic Zone 4, Block Number 401, Parcel Number 1 according to information taken from the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission's Computerized Land Use File.

UTM Reference: (Owensboro East) 16/490105/4180470.