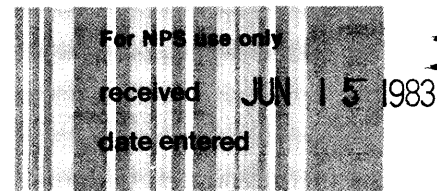


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic Elks Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 916 Main Street not for publication

city, town Vancouver vicinity of congressional district

state Washington code 053 county Clark 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Don Biggs

street & number P.O. Box 189

city, town Vancouver vicinity of state Washington 98666

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clark County Courthouse

street & number 1200 Franklin Street

city, town Vancouver state Washington 98660

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Clark County Cultural Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Regional Planning Council of Clark County

city, town Vancouver state Washington 98663

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

The Elks Lodge was constructed in 1910-11 and is the only structure built for a fraternal organization that is still standing in Vancouver. It is a well maintained structure that has preserved much of its original detailing. The building's design and integrity make the Elks Lodge one of the most impressive structures in the downtown area. The building is located on the southwest corner of Evergreen Boulevard and Main Street. The buildings in this area are commonly two- and three-story commercial structures. To the rear of the building on its west side is a parking lot.

The Elks Lodge is a three-story brick building with a rectangular plan. In 1925, a 50 foot one-story addition was constructed on the south side along Main Street. In 1947 this addition was given a second story. Both of these additions were stylistically integrated into the original structure.

As is typical for many such fraternal halls, the first floor was used as rental space for commercial interests and the upper floors were reserved for lodge functions. The first floor has been altered a number of times in its history, the fenestration being particularly impacted. A recent alteration has attempted to return the first floor to an appearance approximating that of the original. The entrance to the commercial interests is at the northeast corner of the structure. This entrance was deeply recessed from the sidewalk, but a brick pier has been placed at the corner and engages the non-recessed corner of the second floor. Large plate glass picture windows flanked the entrance and similar ones are in place today. A similarly appointed storefront on the south end of the Main Street facade has been altered, leaving only a window and door. Canvas awnings have been placed over the plate glass windows. An original window and door on the Evergreen Boulevard facade have been bricked-in.

At the west end of the Evergreen Boulevard facade is the entrance to the lobby and staircase for the Elks facilities. This entrance is in a slightly projecting pavilion that continues through the third floor. While the rest of the first floor is mostly devoid of detail, the importance of this entrance is stressed by its ornamentation. The door (which has been turned into a window) is topped by a corbelled brick arch. Flanking the opening are panels that have smooth finished concrete quoins and arches surrounding brick infills. Above the entrance and panels is a concrete cornice.

The second and third floors are almost completed unaltered and they maintain their original three by eight bay divisions. The paired casement windows have corbelled brick surrounds and stone corner blocks. Above the windows are panels of multi-colored brick that are laid in geometric patterns. The bay on the pavilion above the Elks entrance has a similar pair of windows, but also a quoined concrete surround, a spandrel beneath the windows, and two urns. The concrete continues above the window and forms a bracketed base for the oriel window on the third floor. This three-sided oriel is topped by a small curved gable. Above the oriel are two small windows and the pavilion is completed by a curved gable with concrete coping. The windows on the other sections of the third floor are quite dramatic. They are large, multipaned, round arched windows that are slightly recessed from the wall. Some of them function as doors and these open onto ornate iron balconies. The balconies stretch across three bays and are supported on curved iron brackets. Multicolored bricks in decorative patterns begin at the impost level of the window arches and continue to the roofline. Above these windows, large carved wooden brackets support a beam which in turn supports the exposed rafters of the roof.

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

The actual roof of the structure is flat and this false roof is a decorative effect, with a very low pitch and covered with pantiles. At the southeast and northeast corners of the building, the false roof is truncated and the wall is allowed to continue above the roofline and create small curved-gable parapets that are decorated with simplified cartouches.

The west side of the building has a small wooden bay but is otherwise unornamented. The addition on the south side imitates almost exactly the form and detailing of the original, though its first floor was also later altered.

The interior of the first floor has been entirely changed. The second floor has been altered several times, but surviving elements include hardwood floors, a small plaster vaulted hall, pilasters, and a broken pediment over the doors to one of the small office spaces. Originally, the second floor was used as a dining room and recreation area. The almost completely unaltered third floor houses the large ceremonial hall. This large hall is dominated by the beamed ceiling. These large boxed cross-beams create a deeply recessed coffered effect on the ceiling. On the east wall are several wooden showcases. Against the west wall there is a large wooden screen or retable. This decorative device once held stained glass windows that included the names of deceased Elks. This element is architectural in conception with fluted Ionic pilasters and columns that support an entablature. Above the entablature is the balustrade for a small balcony.

The structure was designed by Robert Tegan. Research has uncovered very little information about Tegan's career. He is listed in the Portland City Directory as an architect for the years 1911-18 and his name also appears in a membership roster published by the Portland Architectural Club in their 1910 yearbook. There are no other known references to his work.

Like many architects of his day, Mr. Tegan apparently showed few qualms at combining various stylistic influences. The Mission Revival was very popular at this time and one can discern its influence in the curved gable, complicated brackets, and tile roof. Yet this building also shows signs of being influenced by medieval Italian architecture, particularly in its use of polychromatic brickwork. Culturally, of course, these two Mediterranean influences are closely related, and one can see similar revivalist hybrids throughout the United States. The architect can be admired for harmonizing these elements so effectively.

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 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	1911	Builder/Architect	Robert F. Tegan, Architect
-----------------------	------	--------------------------	----------------------------

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Vancouver Elks Building is significant for documenting the role of fraternal organizations in the growth and development of Vancouver. Throughout much of the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century, fraternal organizations were a prerequisite for a community and provided much of the spirit, pride, and entertainment that existed in these towns. Additionally, the building has served as a visual landmark in Vancouver and is one of the few buildings from this era to have retained its integrity.

One of the most dramatic developments concerning social life in the United States involved the remarkable growth of fraternal organizations in the late 1800's. A number of fraternal organizations proliferated during this period; there was a whole menagerie of Moose, Elks, Lions, and Eagles. These organizations seemed to play an even more visible role in communities of the West where there were often fewer family ties and established social cliques.

This building is the only structure existing in Vancouver that is identified with this phase of Vancouver's social history. For many years, the Elks Club was the most prestigious organization in Vancouver, with political and civic leaders composing its membership. For example, Mayors A.B. Eastham and J.R. Kiggins were active members as well as other civic leaders such as Gilbert Daniels and J.J. Padden. This type of membership appears to have continued until the 1930's. Ultimately, the Rotary Club displaced the Elks as the most prestigious fraternal organization. The Elks were involved in many civic and humanitarian activities in Vancouver. These included providing baskets of food and fruit at Christmastime for underprivileged families. They sponsored a community Christmas tree and lighting ceremony each year. Throughout the year, the Club raised funds for various other charitable and youth organizations. Many of these fundraisers were social events such as annual gala balls and family picnics. According to the records of the time, these were considered the premier social events of the year. These activities provided the community spirit and recreational opportunities that, in this age before mass media, would have otherwise been lacking. It should be remembered that such organizations were also very important in providing an environment where business transactions could be facilitated. The Elks sold the building in 1973 and moved to another location.

The structure itself is visually notable, particularly in Vancouver, which has lost so many of its historic resources. The building is well balanced and the detailing of the upper stories is skillfully executed. Indeed, it is one of the most ornamental structures in the city. The building is also a good example of its era's eclectic architectural spirit. Though partially altered, the structure remains a pleasant reminder of Vancouver's heritage.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Columbia Newspaper, May 31, 1911, December 20, 1923, December 19, 1952, and September 15, 1981.
 Clark County Historical Museum.
 Vancouver Elks Lodge, 75th Anniversary Commemorative Booklet, 1977.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one
 Quadrangle name Vancouver Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 0	5 2 5	6 5 5	5 0 5 2	6 6 5	B					
	Zone	Easting		Northing			Zone	Easting	Northing		
C						D					
E						F					
G						H					

Verbal boundary description and justification Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and Number 1 of 5 and 6, Block A, Wyche and Stephens Addition to the city of Vancouver according to the duly recorded plat thereof.

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

state	n/a	code	county	code
state	n/a	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Kirby Turner/John D. White, Consultant	Edited by Mark L. Brack
		O.A.H.P.
organization	Regional Planning Council	date July 15, 1982
street & number	1408 Franklin Street	telephone (206) 699-2361
city or town	Vancouver	state Washington 98660

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 *James E. Shon*
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 6/6/83

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Selma Byers
 Keeper of the National Register Entered in the National Register date 7/14/83
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration