

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

RECORDED MAR 19 1990

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Labor Temple other names/site number Union Hall

2. Location

street & number 208 East Main Street n/a not for publication city, town Missoula n/a vicinity state Montana code 030 county Missoula code 063 zip code 59802

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [X] private, [ ] public-local, [ ] public-State, [ ] public-Federal. Category of Property: [X] building(s), [ ] district, [ ] site, [ ] structure, [ ] object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0 buildings, 0 sites, 0 structures, 0 objects, Total 1.

Name of related multiple property listing: Historical Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940. Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 3-14-90 State or Federal agency and bureau: MT SHPO

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency and bureau: \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: [X] 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:)

Entered in the National Register [Signature] 4/30/90

Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
union hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
union hall

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Prairie Commercial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
walls brick

roof asphalt  
other glass block

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Labor Temple is a rectangular, three-story brick commercial building with five front bays, a projecting metal cornice, brick pilasters and terra cotta capitals between upstairs bays, street level brick pilasters, and remodeled, street level bays. The building is located in the central business district next to a parking lot and converted service station to the west and single-story, historic commercial buildings, some of which have been remodeled, to the east. Molded metal cornice features large modillions. Front upstairs window openings have been infilled with glass blocks. Pilasters separating upper level windows have molded metal capitals. Upstairs windows on west side of building have three-tiered header arches and one-over-four, double-hung windows. Street-level bays of front facade have been filled in with glass block and narrow bricks with header sills between the windows and aprons. Doors and windows on street level are anodized metal framed replacement glass units. A plastic sign reading "Union Hall" hangs perpendicular to the facade of the building.

The west side of the building has a stepped parapet, low-fire stretcher bond brick with second- and third-floor wood frame, double-hung, one-over-one windows with three-tiered header relief arches. The two windows at the rear of the building (one upstairs and one downstairs) have been filled in with brick. A sign painted on the brick in white letters against a black background is located at the top of the building and reads "Labor Temple." Under it is a faded painted sign reading "Murphy Motors Inc, Dodge Brothers, Motor Cars, Sales and Service." Part of the west side wall has been obscured by the construction of a service station in the 1950s.

The rear of the building is low-fire stretcher bond brick. The second floor has 3-tiered header relief arched windows that have been filled with brick. The first floor has a centered, slightly recessed, wood-frame entryway with a single wood frame door. This central section is flanked to the east by a large wood frame entryway with vertical wood panel infill and a small wood frame metal door with no handle and to the west by a single recessed entryway door under a header relief arch and two wood frame, double-hung one-over-one windows with header sills and vertical iron grates over them.

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The building has experienced some loss of integrity with the infill of first and second story windows with glass blocks, the use of modern flat brick to raise the storefront aprons, and the installation of street level anodized metal doors and windows. It possesses excellent integrity on first and second stories on the west side and at the rear of the building. The Labor Temple also has lost some integrity of setting with the construction of the parking lot and service station to the west.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce  
Social history

Period of Significance

1916-1940

Significant Dates

1916

Cultural Affiliation  
n/a

Significant Person  
n/a

Architect/Builder  
not known

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Labor Temple building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A due to its association with the organized labor movement in Missoula during the early part of the twentieth century. It is the only historic building in Missoula clearly associated with the labor movement during its formative stages. It was constructed in the 1910s, during the second major post-railroad economic and building boom in Missoula, which contributed significantly to the growth of the labor movement.

This building was constructed in 1916, when the property was owned by the Union Hall Company, which has owned the property since 1908. This property has been the location of Missoula labor halls since 1896. In September of that year, the original Union Hall, a frame building, was constructed at this location and dedicated on land donated by Marcus Daly. That building housed the Family Theater, Missoula's only theater at that time, and also was the site of Missoula's 1896 Democratic Convention. The building served as local headquarters for unions affiliated with the Western Labor Union (established by the Western Federation of Miners which withdrew from the American Federation of Labor) starting in 1896. These unions were part of the Federal Labor Union Local 83, which was the precursor of the building trade unions before they organized into separate crafts. The Western Labor Union, which came to be known as the American Labor Union, issued a charter to the Western Montana Trades-Labor Council of Missoula in 1896.

In 1904, the unions in western Montana, including the Missoula Trade and Labor Council, affiliated with the American Labor Union, applied for charters from the Montana State Federation of Labor. At that time, 15 unions were affiliated with the council. These included the Stationary Engineers, Federal Labor Union No. 43, Printers, Carpenters, Woodworkers, Cooks and Waiters, Plumbers, Lumber Workers, Farmers, Barbers, Electricians, Retail Clerks, Painters and Bricklayers. When

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the Missoula State Federation of Labor ceased issuing charters in 1910, the Missoula Trade and Labor Council applied for its charter from the American Federation of Labor, which granted the local council a charter on January 11, 1910. In 1911, the old union hall burned. The existing hall was built between October 1916 and June 1917 and is still owned by the Union Hall Company in which the local unions hold stock.

The union, dance, and lodge facilities were located on the second and third floors and the ground floor and basement were occupied by the Murphy Motor Company show room and service facilities. In 1950, the ground floor, basement, and front facade were remodeled to accommodate union offices and facilities. The second and third floors are largely free of remodeling, except for lowered ceilings, wall paper, and tile floors. The wood doors and door frames and ceiling molding are still intact.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

McDonald, James, and Gary Williams, Missoula Historical Resource Survey. Missoula: Porky Press, 1980.

Missoulian, January 11, 1950.

Morris, Bruce. Secretary, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. Personal Communication, Missoula, Montana, May 10, 1989.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Area of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	2
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2	7	2	0	2	5
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5	1	9	4	9	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

C.P. Higgins Addition, Block A, Lot 15-16.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the city lots upon which the historic building was erected.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title William A. Babcock, Jr., Missoula Historic Preservation Officer  
organization City of Missoula date August 1989  
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city or town Missoula, state Montana zip code 59802