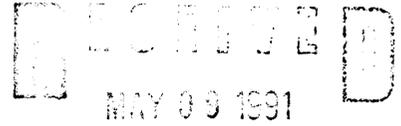


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: I.O.O.F. Hall

other name/site number: Stevensville Historical Society Museum

2. Location

street & number: 217-219 Main

not for publication: n/a
vicinity: n/a

city/town: Stevensville

state: Montana code: MT county: Ravalli code: 081 zip code: 59870

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	_____ building(s)
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u> 1 </u>	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Stevensville, Montana: 1866-1941.

4. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.

Marcell Sharp MT SHPO 4-9-91
Signature of certifying official Date

MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

___ See Continuation Sheet

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Entered in the
National Register

entered in the National Register Alcarriz Byun 6/19/91

___ See Continuation Sheet

___ determined eligible for the National Register _____

___ determined not eligible for the National Register _____

___ See Continuation Sheet

___ removed from the National Register _____

___ See Continuation Sheet

___ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Social/Meeting Hall

Current: Recreation and Culture/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Other: Vernacular: Two-bay Commercial Block

Materials: foundation: concrete
 walls: brick
 roof: asphalt

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The I.O.O.F. Hall is a two-story, brick, rectangular (42'x100'), two-part commercial block, with a built-up roof located in Stevensville's central business district. The interior of the building is a clear span, supported by five large steel I-beams set on 16' centers. The principal (east) facade, which faces Main Street, is divided vertically into a narrow south bay marking the stairway to the second level and a wide north bay by a pilaster running the full height of the building. The dividing pilaster matches those at the corners of the building, giving the building a sense of orderliness and increased height.

The second story retains its original design integrity; high relief brick corbelling is used in several areas for decoration. The raised center of the parapet contains the legend "I.O.O.F." The parapet is ornamented by a series of tiny sixteen brick pilasters (two in the south section, 14 in the north). Five large, evenly-spaced, 1-over-1, double-hung windows are located across the second story of the north section. A matching window is located in the bay section. The windows have flat brick arches and concrete sills. Horizontal bands of protruding end brick extend across the facade below the windows.

The ground floor of the south section, which appears to be original, features double, glazed doors providing access to the second story lodge hall. A pair of large transom windows is located directly above the doors.

The commercial space located on the ground floor of the large north bay has been altered, and most original interior historic fabric has either been removed or concealed. An extra-tall garage door has been installed on the facade to provide access to the interior for fire trucks. The door is covered by a split shake awning. A row of four transom windows extends from the south wall to the garage door. Another split shake awning is located directly below the transom windows. The entrance door to the main floor is located near the center of the north bay under the second awning. A large multi-light, three-part window is located to the south between the door and the dividing brick pilaster.

The ground floor of the south elevation shares a party wall with the adjoining building. However, the second story of the wall is visible. It is made of a slightly lighter-colored brick than the principal facade. There are four evenly-spaced, 1-over-1, double-hung windows with segmental relieving arches and concrete sills evenly placed along this wall. The three west windows have been covered with plywood.

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The west (rear) elevation has two 1-over-1, double-hung windows with segmental relieving arches and concrete sills on the second floor. The north window is covered with plywood. A paneled wood door at the extreme north side of the second floor opens onto a wooden fire escape which leads diagonally across the face of the building to ground level. A five-paneled wood door is located to the north of center on the ground floor. There are three 1-over-1, double-hung windows with segmental relieving arches and concrete sills: one to the north and two to the south of the door. Three segmental relieving arches that represent infilled historic window openings are located across the building at ground level.

The north elevation also shares a party wall with the adjoining building. The visible section reveals four 1-over-1 double-hung windows on the second story. Three of the windows have been covered with plywood. Two single-pane, fixed windows are located on the ground floor in the west half of the elevation.

The I.O.O.F. Hall retains a high degree of historic architectural integrity. The upper facade remains unaltered. An awning that extended across the center section of the facade has been removed, and the storefront has been rebuilt. The original entrance to the second story remains. The original floor plan of the upper floor meeting hall remains, and includes a reception area, office, kitchen, two bathrooms, cloak rooms and the large meeting hall itself. The woodwork of the lodge hall is of fir, as is the tongue and groove flooring. A leaking roof has resulted in deterioration of the lath and plaster, but otherwise the lodge hall remains amazingly intact.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C Areas of Significance: Architecture, Social History

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a Period(s) of Significance: 1912-1941

Significant Person(s): n/a Significant Dates: 1912

Cultural Affiliation: n/a Architect/Builder: Hightower, J. J. (builder)

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

The I.O.O.F. Hall, built ca. 1912, is a fine example of the typical Main Street lodge hall found in many rural communities. Built during a period of optimism and growth in Stevensville, the building suggests that members assumed the lodge would continue to play the significant role in community life that it had played during the frontier era. Fraternal groups were an important source of organized social welfare services prior to the assumption of responsibility by government, and special attention was conferred upon widows, orphans and others in need. The upper floor was designed for lodge use; the main floor was meant for commercial use. The Hall was constructed by local builder J.J. Hightower, and the brick work and details exhibit fine craftsmanship. The lodge meeting room and offices on the second floor remain completely intact from the historic period, making this an unusually significant historic interior space. This building is also significant for its close association with the International Order of Odd Fellows, a fraternal organization that was a major social and political force throughout the western United States during the pioneer days. The building served as the Stevensville City Hall, Public Library and Fire House after the historic period.

Background History

The 1905 fire in downtown Stevensville completely destroyed the Wells Building, which was valued at \$700 and located on this lot. At the time of the fire the building was occupied by the Cannon and Bruce general merchandise store. A large quantity of goods was saved from the fire, but Cannon and Bruce's loss was around \$500.¹

The lot remained vacant for several years. In 1906 the Trustees of the Garden Valley Lodge No. 14, I.O.O.F. purchased the lot from the Wells family and planned to build a new lodge hall on it.² However, the lodge did not begin construction immediately, as the lot was still vacant in 1909.³

Construction began around 1912, and J.J. Hightower was the contractor. According to a Hightower family member, the building has a unusual "turtleback" roof, which required specially constructed trusses built on the site. The upper floor of the building was reserved for lodge activities, while the main floor was leased for commercial purposes.

X See Continuation Sheet

¹Stevensville Register, August 30, 1905.

²Chain of Title.

³Sanborn Map, 1909.

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In the 1920s the building was used as a theater.⁴ In 1929, Garden Valley Lodge signed an eight-year lease for the first floor with W.J. Startwig.⁵ In 1949, the City of Stevensville purchased a half-interest in the building and used the ground floor for a city hall, public library, and fire station. During that time the storefront area was rebuilt with the overhead garage-type door to provide access for the fire engine.

The Garden Valley I.O.O.F. Lodge turned its interest in the lodge hall over to the Hope Rebecca Lodge No. 15 in 1955. The Lodge has since disbanded. Hope sold its interest to George Dickerson and his wife in 1978. In 1985, the City of Stevensville moved the city offices, public library, and fire department to a new building on Buck Avenue and sold its interest in this building to William Larkin.⁶

⁴Sanborn Map, 1927.

⁵Chain of Title.

⁶Ibid.

9. References

Missoula Herald, Missoula, Montana, Special Edition, January 1, 1909.
Missoulian, Missoula, Montana, December 15, 1912; June 12, 1949; August 14, 1949.
Stevensville Historical Society, Montana Genesis (Missoula: Mountain Press, 1971).
Stevensville Register, Stevensville, Montana, Special Edition, December 23, 1909; August 30, 1905.
Western News, Hamilton, Montana, December 19, 1911.
Negative file: E. elevation, Sleeve 5, Row 5, Neg. 21.

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State historic preservation office
 Other state agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	11	723020	5154640

Verbal Boundary Description:

Stevensville Townsite, Block 16, Lot 7.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the lots upon which the historic building is situated.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Frank Grant
Street & Number: 544 Hastings
City or Town: Missoula State: Montana

Date: revised October 1990
Telephone: 406/549-2468
Zip: 59801