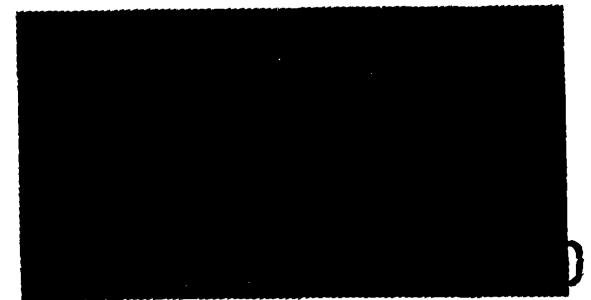


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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NAME: Oddfellow's Hall

LOCATION: 63-67 Warren Avenue

OWNER: Beaver Realty Corporation
63-67 Warren Avenue
East Providence, R.I. 02914

DESCRIPTION:

The Oddfellow's Hall is located in a densely built-up neighborhood of residential and commercial structures near an interchange on Interstate Route 195. It stands in the same block as Saint Mary's Episcopal Church at 83 Warren Avenue (see inventory entry). Erected in 1889, the hall is a two-and-a-half-story, shingled wood-frame structure covered by a hip roof with a rear gable. An octagonal, louvered cupola with a tall, flared conical roof originally rose from the center of the roof but it has been removed. Several oriel-like bays project from the contained, rectilinear mass of the building. They rise from second-floor level and break up through the structure's bracketed eaves. One bay, at the center of the facade (north side), is polygonal in form and is capped with a hip roof. Supported by curving brackets flanking the entrance to the stair hall to the upper floors, this bay contains a triple window at the upper level and, over the central second-floor window, a semi-circular carved panel with the legend "I.O.O.F. 1889" surrounded by elaborate foliate ornament. The remaining bays, three on each side of the building, are supported by consoles and topped with gable roofs. They contain two-story, arch-topped recesses with arched windows at the upper level. The front bays on each side have regular double-hung windows at the lower level, while the center and rear bays have double-height double-hung windows. The first-floor facade of the hall is taken up by a storefront that extends around the corner along part of the east side. It is topped by an entablature-like band with a broad frieze and heavy cornice moldings. Except for the installation of larger panes of plate glass, the storefront is virtually unaltered from its original state. A smaller, simpler storefront fills the rear portion of the east side of the building.

The ground floor, originally subdivided into shops, is now occupied by a restaurant. Except for an embossed metal ceiling, there are no noteworthy decorative features. The upper floors contain a large meeting hall and some office space. Access to these areas could not be obtained and their state of preservation is unknown.

(See Continuation Sheet #52).

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DATES: 1889

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Oddfellow's Hall is historically and architecturally significant. The hall and Saint Mary's Episcopal Church (see inventory entry) are the only surviving Victorian public buildings near the site of Watchemoket Square, once the focus of the Watchemoket neighborhood, which became East Providence's new civic center in the late nineteenth century. The buildings that occupied the square were all cleared away in the twentieth century to permit the construction of Washington Bridge and an interchange on Interstate Route 195. The hall is thus an important indicator of this area's former status. It reflects Watchemoket's development as a community center and a suburban residential neighborhood of Providence, and the attendant establishment of new civic and social institutions to serve an expanding populace.

The Oddfellow's Hall is architecturally noteworthy for the high quality of its design. A distinguished structure by the prominent late nineteenth-century Providence architectural firm Gould and Angell, it is an excellent example of a small Shingle Style public building.

ACREAGE: less than one acre

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Assessor's Plat 1, Lot 403

UTM: 19: 302140: 4632000

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

(See Continuation Sheet #53).