

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 25 1980
DATE ENTERED AUG 11 1980

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

Odd Fellows Hall

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

~~Northeast corner~~ Fifth & Madison Streets NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Covington

VICINITY OF

6

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Kentucky

021

Kenton

117

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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Doris Kappas

STREET & NUMBER

820 North Arlington Road

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Covington

VICINITY OF

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kenton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Covington

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Frankfort

Kentucky

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

Located on the northeast corner of Fifth and Madison streets, the Odd Fellows Hall occupies a prominent location in the center of the business and commercial section of downtown Covington, Kentucky. Covington (population 52,000, 1970 census) is located in northern Kentucky directly south across the Ohio River from Cincinnati.

Following the standard formula for the design of tall commercial buildings in the nineteenth century before the development of the steel-framed skyscraper, the building is divided vertically into three units corresponding to the base, shaft, and capital of a column, thus creating the illusion of height about a solid building mass (see photo 1).

The ground floor consists of five shops, several of which retain the original cast iron storefronts. Brick pilasters extending from the second to the third floors divide the bays and visually strengthen the building on the south and west street elevations (see photo 2). The tall, narrow windows have been boarded up. Pedimented hood molds surmount the second story windows which have panelled aprons beneath. Smooth brick surfaces serve as the architrave and frieze, and a bracketed cornice completes the building. A narrow stone beltcourse provides the only horizontal emphasis (see photo 3).

The second and third floors are now used for storage, however the auditorium on the second floor retains an elaborate plaster relief cornice. The design of the building was rather innovative for the time. Instead of center beams, iron rods support the floors and thus allow for the vast open interior spaces such as the auditorium which measures 54' x 86' with a 25 foot ceiling. The Lodge room on the third floor measures 44' x 67' with a 20 foot ceiling. Other rooms on the third floor served as a supper room, a library, and anterooms.

The nominated acreage consists of the city lot on which the building rests.

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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1856 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Gedge and Brothers

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Odd Fellows Hall in downtown Covington, Kentucky, is one of the city's earliest commercial structures. Erected in 1856, its massive scale and prominent corner location make the Odd Fellows Hall one of the visual landmarks of the Madison Street business section.¹ The building is especially noteworthy in the method of construction. In order to accomodate large, unbroken interior spaces, iron tie rods were employed to support the floors. In addition to its architectural distinction, the structure is a well-known local landmark having served as the center for both civic and social activities in downtown Covington.

Covington was settled in 1801 and grew westward from the area known as "The Point" where the Licking flows into the Ohio River. The first industry was the Covington Cotton Factory established in 1828 near the Ohio River just west of "The Point." Beginning in 1840, the population of Covington grew tremendously due to large numbers of German immigrants who settled in the Covington-Cincinnati area. As the population expanded, Covington quickly developed as an urban commercial center. The present Madison Street commercial district is an eloquent visual reminder of Covington's prosperity in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Designed by Gedge and Brothers, the Odd Fellows Hall was hailed as "the most impressive and magnificent of the kind in the Kentucky."² The cornerstone was laid on 12 April 1856 and the Covington Journal of 24 October 1857 described the dedication ceremony which was preceded by a procession as "the most imposing display of the kind ever witnessed in Covington."³ The building served as the first home for the First National Bank of Covington, while other businesses on the ground floor consisted of the Post Office, a bookstore, a drugstore, and a grocery.

Originally, the second floor functioned as a large auditorium. A wide range of social and political events took place here which have resulted in public recognition of the building as a community landmark. During the Civil War, Confederate prisoners were detained in the building. Numerous literary and political figures of local, state, and national prominence delivered lectures and made public appearances in the hall. Chatauqua lectures were held in the auditorium during the 1890s. Municipal dances sponsored by the city took place on the second floor. The second floor also served as a theatre for vaudeville shows and later for movies in the early twentieth century. During the Depression, local boxing professional Joe Anderson operated a boxing arena in this space. Following Prohibition, he opened a popular nightclub, one of several to be housed in the building.

Currently, the upper floors are vacant. The present owner is in hopes that National Register listing will assist in efforts to maintain the building as a viable

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Eilerman, Charles E. Historic Covington: Proposed Subjects for Registration and Historic Marking. Covington, 1973.

Kentucky Heritage Commission. "Mutter Gottes Historic District," Kenton County, Kentucky. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Frankfort, Kentucky.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Covington Quadrangle Ky.-Ohio

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 7,1,5,3,3,0 4,3,2,9,0,5,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A rectangular lot measuring 95' x 85'; fronting 95' on Madison St., 85' on Fifth St. Building occupies entire lot.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charlotte Schneider, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

June 1980

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

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

Donna C. Hopkins

TITLE

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6-19-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. Ray June
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/11/80

ATTEST: *Kristin O'Connell*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

7/24/80

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part of the downtown commercial district.

¹The nomination of the Madison Street Commercial District is planned for a future date.

²Charles E. Eilerman, Historic Covington: Proposed Subjects for Registration and Historic Marking (Covington, 1973).

³Covington Journal, 24 October 1857.

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Information provided by owner.