

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310

Significance Primary No. 38

County Jackson

Theme _____

Name "Masonic Building"; Williams Corner
(Common) Yankee Design Screen Printing,
J'ville Barber, Higher Ground Studio

(Historic) Masonic Building/Warren Lodge No. 10

Address 165, 175 West California Street
Jacksonville, Oregon 97530

Present Owner Warren Lodge No. 10 AF & AM

Address P.O. Box 417
Jacksonville, Oregon 97530

Original Use Commercial/Fraternal

Date of Construction 1874-1877

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The two story, rectangular Masonic block was constructed between 1874 and 1877 (the major portion of the building being completed in late 1875) by local brick and stone mason George Holt. The architect of this commercial Italianate edifice is not known. The building is at presently painted white; however, the original dark red paint is bleeding through.

The north facade is seven bays wide and the side (west) elevation is ten bays. The north facade fronting on West California Street is broken into two groups on the ground floor bays: the first four bays on the west end have semicircular arches that spring from recessed paneled piers while the east end consists of three, square-headed openings. A central, slightly recessed door with a transom light above is flanked by two, four-over-four fixed sash windows above horizontal panels. The western arched arcaded end of the north facade consists of four bays: one is a recessed double leaf, glazed doorway; the other three bays are windows with two square lights over a single large pane.

The ten bays on the first floor of the west facade have semicircular arches springing from piers with stepped bases and capitals and a shallow recessed panel running the length of the pier. To accommodate

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Recorded by Gail E.H. Evans Date November 1979

Photographed by Gail E.H. Evans
Sources consulted (continue on back if necessary):

Please refer to footnotes

(repeat)

a slight slope in the ground, two of the piers are split vertically with one half slightly lower than the other half. Some bays are infilled with wood while others still contain double leaf doors that are now sealed shut. The southernmost bay on the west facade has a modern door that leads to second floor meeting rooms.

The second floor square-headed window openings on both the north and west facade are all four-over-four, double hung sash windows with stone sills and molded stone lintels. The third opening from the northwest corner on the north facade is a casement door capped by a two light transom. All openings are evenly spaced and are vertically aligned with the openings below.

The roof is a hip hidden behind a parapet. Below the parapet an arched corbel table supports pairs of scrolled brackets (painted gray) with a bulb-shaped pendant dropping from the outer edge of each bracket. A boxed cornice runs above the brackets on both west and north facades.

The Masonic Building is situated on the southeast corner of West California and South Oregon Streets. On both north and west walls a cement sidewalk extends from the building foundation to the street curb. A bench of narrow iron bands is positioned against the West California Street wall. On the south the building shares a party wall with a one story brick building. To the rear (southeast side) two of the four original bays on the ground level have been infilled with brick. A recent cement cinder block shed roof addition is attached to the southeast corner of the building.

Originally the main north and west facades of the Masonic Building were painted a dark red with the brackets and window trim accented with a lighter color of paint. A second floor balustraded balcony, supported by iron brackets, extended the entire length of the north and west facades.

In the late 1800's a bake house, oven, and additional one story outbuildings were grouped around the rear southeast corner of the building.

Today, the second floor meeting rooms are shared by the Masons and other fraternal organizations. The ground floor houses a barbershop studios and gift shops. The building is maintained in good condition.

The Masonic Building was constructed between 1874 and 1877 by George Holt whose most noted accomplishments in Jacksonville include the old Jackson County Courthouse, Redmen's Hall, and the United States Hotel. Organized in early 1855, Warren Lodge No. 10, AF & AM was, in 1858, the first Masonic Lodge south of Salem to construct a meeting hall.¹ Their building was located on the block now occupied by the Jackson County Courthouse and for many years leased portions of the building to county officials. Prior to the construction of their 1858 two story, classic revival edifice, they held regular meetings in a room in a building, no longer standing, on the south side of California Street between Third and Fourth Streets.²

As a result of an 1874 fire originating on the southeast corner of California and Oregon Streets, the present two story brick Masonic Hall replaced "many of the ancient landmarks" in Jacksonville.³ Originally this corner lot embraced a tight cluster of pioneer wood frame buildings. Probably one of the earliest (possibly constructed in the spring or summer of 1852⁴), and certainly one of the most notorious landmarks in the early mining community, was the "house known as the Eldorado."⁵ The "Eldorado" fronted on Oregon Street and extended for one hundred feet along California Street.⁶ "Gamblers, courtesans, sharpers of every kind, the class that struck prosperous mining camps like a blight, flocked to the New Eldorado."⁷

Between 1853 and 1857 various individuals claimed ownership of this desirable parcel which was located near the heart of the newly founded mining camp.⁸ William H. Boss maintained that he was the builder of the famed Eldorado Saloon. James Cluggage, who held donation land claim rights to nearly all of the land in the original townsite, sold the Eldorado site to John Paw Paw in late 1857.¹⁰

Adjacent to the Eldorado on the south, and approximately where the mid portion of the Masonic Building now stands, was the "Banking and Express Office of Rhodes and Lusk." They apparently carried gold between Jacksonville and Yreka, California, around 1854.¹¹ Later, William Kruezer, perhaps Jacksonville's first baker, and Viet Schutz, owner and proprietor of the soon-to-be-born social institution known as the City Brewery, subsequently occupied buildings on this corner lot.¹² And on the southernmost portion of the present Masonic lot was a narrow lot and "house" of at present unidentified use, owned first by William and Horace Ish,¹³ then by John McCully, then jointly by Henry Bletcher and John Long.

This conglomeration of now almost unimaginable frame shops, sheds and outbuildings had a dramatic death in the early morning hours of April 14, 1874. As the "Marshall" was making his nocturnal rounds fire was discovered issuing from the roof of the mid portion of the elongated Eldorado Saloon building. "[The buildings] were as dry as tinder and by the time a sufficient number of citizens had reached the spot to accomplish anything it was evident that [the] block must burn."¹⁴ The entire one hundred foot Eldorado building and the adjacent buildings then occupied by Viet Schutz and William Kruezer were all totally consumed by the fiery element.¹⁵ Although personal loss was great, a "handsome brick structure by the Masonic fraternity" was soon to be raised, and, in the opinion of one writer of the day, "private purses were made to suffer for the benefit of the town."¹⁶ By mid September ground had been broken on the old site of the Eldorado and its contiguous buildings.¹⁸ In July of 1875 it was reported that the contract for the brickwork had been let to George W. Holt and "a large quantity of brick [had] already been hauled to the scene of operations and Mr. Holt and his assistants [were] busy at work."¹⁹ By mid September 1875 the building presented "a handsome facade":²⁰ the roof went on, and the brick walls were painted by J.L. Carter and Son in October and November.²¹ A year later local carpenter and builder David Linn added a "neat and substantial balcony" and²³ Carter and Sons were giving the building its final strokes of paint. Finally,²³ in early 1877 it was announced that the Masonic Hall was completed.²⁴ A local newspaper described the building as one of the "finest buildings in Southern Oregon, and credit to the Masonic Fraternity."²⁴

In the 1880's a "City Brewery," "Saloon," and "Bakery" were re-instated on the ground floor under the second floor Masonic Hall.²⁵ In the early 1890's the Post Office and a cigar store were located on the first floor,²⁶ and later a "furniture warehouse" occupied a large portion of the ground floor.²⁷

FOOTNOTES

1. Halvorsen, Henry H., Masonry Comes to Southern Oregon, Gandee Printing Center, 1878, p. 43.
2. Ibid., p. 12.
3. Walling, A. G., History of Southern Oregon Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties, Portland, Oregon, Publishing House of A. G. Walling, 1884, p. 373.

4. Ibid., p. 360.
5. Jackson County Deeds, April 4, 1853. (Christopher Owens)
6. Ibid., April 4, 1853. (Christopher Owens)
7. Walling, A. G., History of Southern Oregon Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties, Portland, Oregon, Publishing House of A. G. Walling, 1884, p. 360.
8. Jackson County Deeds, April 4, 1853 (Kenny & Appler, William Burke); September 20, 1854 (William H. Boss, Sutton Mellon); November 1, 1854 (James Leslie, W. W. Fowler); December 15, 1854 (John McCully); November 4, 1855 (Patrick McMannus). (Christopher Owens)
9. Ibid., September 20, 1854. (Christopher Owens)
10. Ibid., December 7, 1857. (Christopher Owens)
11. Ibid., March 15, 1854; November 1, 1854. (Christopher Owens)
12. Ibid., November 25, 1865; June 27, 1866. (Christopher Owens)
13. Ibid., April 22, 1857; August 25, 1857. (Christopher Owens)
14. The Oregon Sentinel, April 18, 1874.
15. Ibid., April 18, 1874.
16. Walling, A. G., History of Southern Oregon Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties, Portland, Oregon, Publishing House of A. G. Walling, 1884, p. 373.
17. Jackson County Deeds, September 4, September 8, September 11, 1874. (Christopher Owens)
18. The Oregon Sentinel, September 26, 1874. (Marshall Lango)
19. The Democratic Times, July 16, 1875. (Marshall Lango)
20. The Oregon Sentinel, September 18, 1875. (Marshall Lango)
21. The Democratic Times, November 12, 1875.
22. Ibid., September 21, 1876.
23. Ibid., February 17, 1877. (Marshall Lango)
24. The Oregon Sentinel, November 13, 1875.
25. Ibid., September 1, 1880. The Democratic Times, June 13, 1884. Jacksonville, Sanborn Map and Publishing Co., 1884.
26. Ibid., 1888 (corrected to 1890), 1892.
27. Ibid., 1898.

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
 HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Oregon State Parks, Salem 97310



County Jackson
 Theme 9-E, 10-A
 Name (Common) Masonic Temple
 (Historic) (same)
 Address 165 & 175 W California
s.e. corner Calif. & Oregon
Jacksonville, Oregon
 Present Owner _____
 Address _____
 Original Use Lodge Hall; Commercial
 Date of Construction 1875

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The Masonic Temple is a two story, brick building which stands at the southeast corner of California streets in Jacksonville. This building has many arched bays on its north and west elevations and has four-over-four, double hung sash windows on its second story. The building has decorative brackets on its facade at the roof level. This building was erected in 1875 on the site of the Eldorado Saloon which burned in a fire in 1874. Warren Lodge No. 10 of the A.F. and A.M. was organized in 1857.

For more information on the architecture and history of this structure see the forthcoming publication:

Ross, Marion D. and Christopher Owens. "An Area Study of Jacksonville, Oregon: The Commercial District and the Churches and Courthouse."

For a photographic record of this building see pictures #7-9 in the HABS files taken 2-5 August 1971 by Jack E. Boucher. This collection is on file in the Southern Oregon Historical Museum, Jacksonville, Oregon.

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Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 27 Aug. 1976

For Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

Sources Consulted:
Historic Jacksonville Oregon. n.p.: U. S. National Bank, [1976.]

Please enclose map Township 37^N_S 2^E_W Section 32

see p. 87 1979 Jacksonville Survey Vol. 1.