

CITY OF ECHO



**NAME** UMATILLA MASONIC LODGE  
**ID. NO.** 3N 29 16BD 019



CURRENT PHOTO: view from northeast  
 NEGATIVE # \_\_\_\_\_ FRAME \_\_\_\_\_

IDENTIFICATION

HISTORIC OWNER(S):	Umatilla Lodge #40 A.F. & A.M.	OWNER'S ADDRESS:	PO Box 322, Echo
CURRENT OWNER:	same	STREET ADDRESS:	20 S. Dupont St.
NEIGHBORHOOD:	downtown	TAX LOT #:	5990
ASSESSOR'S MAP #:	3N 29 16BD	ADDITION:	Original Townsite
LOT(S):	5 BLOCK: 2	YEAR BUILT:	1868, moved 1901
BUILDER/ARCHITECT:		ORIGINAL USE:	lodge hall, Seniors' meals
CURRENT USE:	lodge hall, commercial	DEGREE OF ALTERATION:	minimal (exterior)
THEME(S):	6D Service & distribution of goods		
CONDITION:	fair		
RELATED BUILDINGS OR SITES:			

ARCHITECTURE

BUILDING TYPE:	storefront	SIZE:	24'x60'
STRUCTURE:	woodframe	STORIES:	2
STYLE:	Italianate, falsefront		
PLAN/MASSING:	rectangular		
ATTACHMENTS:	exterior staircase, rear 8'x10' shed addition		
PORCHES:	none		
ROOF:	gable with falsefront	ROOFING:	corrugated metal
DORMERS:	none	DOORS:	single wooden w/transom
WINDOWS:	upstairs: double sets of 1/1 tall, double-hung on the front, single windows elsewhere; original storefront downstairs; all windows boarded over but frames intact		
EXTERIOR FINISH:	drop-lap wooden siding	COLOR SCHEME:	white
CHIMNEYS:	one brick chimney with metal pipe on south side		
FOUNDATION:	concrete	FLOORING:	softwood
ORNAMENTATION:	curved brackets under eave of falsefront; recessed-panel bulkheads		
SPECIAL FEATURES:	intact storefront		
ALTERATIONS:	boarding over; two windows on each side of lower floor were removed		

COUNTY ARCHIVE DATAHISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Umatilla Lodge #40 AF&AM was organized on 23 March 1867, in Umatilla City, and was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Oregon on 25 June 1867. It was the fifth Masonic lodge created east of the Cascades, and was the parent lodge of all others in Umatilla and Morrow counties. (The other lodges were as follows: Wasco and The Dalles 1857, Canyon City 1863, and La Grande 1867). The first meeting was held in the Squires & Scrivenor Hall, and the following officers were elected: Amos E. Rodgers, Jesse David, Peter Rothenbusch, H.C. Paige, J.H. Fish, R.K. Landsdale, and Thomas Pearson. J.H. Kunzie, a leading merchant, became a member in 1868 and was elected Grand Master of Oregon in 1876. These were boom times in Umatilla City, during the eastern Oregon gold rush, and in one year alone, 200 members were installed.

This building was built by the Lodge in Umatilla City in 1868, reportedly for a cost of \$4800, but this must be an error; perhaps the cost was \$480, a very plausible amount in those days for a woodframe building. The lodge hall was maintained upstairs, while the lower floor was rented out for commercial purposes.

By the early 1870's, Umatilla City's bubble had burst. Business was bad, and to make matters worse, settlement was occurring elsewhere in the large county, and in 1870, the county seat had been removed to the newly-founded town of Pendleton, 45 miles away. The little riverport, touted by its own newspaper as having "sandstorms worthy of the Sahara", dwindled from a bustling 3000 wintertime residents to a population of less than 200 by 1900. Therefore, on 25 May 1901, the Umatilla Lodge voted to consolidate with the Echo Lodge #94, since at that time Echo was growing and showing great promise. It was agreed to retain the name "Umatilla" and to move the lodge hall to Echo. The two-story building was dismantled and moved to Echo by rail in October 1901, and reassembled on its current site, all for a cost of \$1,618.27. Oddly enough, this was not the

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Historical Information (continued)

the first building from Umatilla to move the 16 miles to a new home in Echo. The I.O.O.F. Lodge had been relocated probably in 1883 to become the new "Opera House" in Echo, and we suspect that the Edwards Building came from Umatilla City as well. The reason is probably two-fold: Echo was founded by a Umatilla City merchant, who maintained business there for several years, and Echo and Foster (now Stanfield), three miles downriver, were the closest growing communities.

During its life in Echo, the Umatilla Masonic Lodge Hall has housed not only the upstairs lodge meeting room, but on the ground floor a harness shop, hardware store, restaurant, saloon, and barber shop as well. Since 1961, the lower floor has been used by the Lodge as a dining room and a community group meeting room. Accordingly, the place was remodeled, and a kitchen was added. At this time the original carpet upstairs in the Lodge Hall was replaced. It had an interesting history, having been made in Europe to a design incorporating Masonic symbols and then shipped to Oregon around Cape Horn. Pieces of this carpet were salvaged and donated to other lodges as historical mementos. One piece was retained and is on display in the Lodge Hall.

On 6 February 1964, the Stanfield Lodge #173 was consolidated with the Umatilla Lodge, and the unified Lodge still meets upstairs on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, except July and August.

EVALUATION

IDENTIFIED IN OTHER LISTINGS: no  
 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: primary  
 RECOMMENDED FOR PROTECTION: yes  
 SOURCE OF SIGNIFICANCE: this is one of the oldest remaining buildings in Umatilla County, and perhaps the oldest commercial structure; it is intact inspite of the boarded up windows; association with Umatilla City, of which no original buildings remain in situ (due to construction of the John Day Dam) or elsewhere in Umatilla, though the "old town" area is on the National Register of Historic Places

HISTORIC PERIOD: first, second  
 FOR NATIONAL REGISTER: yes, district

SOURCES

Gilbert, p 477  
 Tolar, pp 90-91  
 Notes provided by Masonic Lodge

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 RECORDED BY Steve Randolph  
 UMATILLA COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
 DATE COMPLETED: 24 September 1986

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