Masonic Building
Southeast corner California Street and Oregon Street
Jacksonville
Jackson County
Oregon

HABS No. ORE-100

HABS
ORE,
15-JACVI,
54-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HABS, ORE, 15-JACVI, 54-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY HABS No. ORE-100

MASONIC BUILDING

Location: Southeast corner California and Oregon Streets, Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Masonic Building occupies the site of the former Eldorado Saloon, a building that stood on the corner of Oregon and California Streets as early as 1853, when Kenny and Appler sold "the House known as the Eldorado" to William Burke.[1] Burke evidently rebuilt the structure, for in 1854--when selling it to Sutton Miller--he referred to the "building built by me in this place," known as the Eldorado Saloon.[2] The Eldorado housed a number of other enterprises as well as the saloon: George Schumpf opened his first barber shop in the building in 1872,3 and E. Jacobs had his tailor shop there.[4] When the Eldorado burned in 1874,[5] the owner, Patrick McMannus, sold the property to the Masonic Lodge. In 1875 the Masons completed construction of a two-story brick building on the site.

The Warren Lodge No. 10, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, first organized in early 1855, with T. McF. Patton, Patrick Dunn, A.M. Berry, A.B. Carter, S.H. Taylor, Lewis Graf, Jacob Solomon, and J.S. Burpee as officers.[6] Carter was a painter,[7] Solomon was a merchant,[8] and Burpee and Berry were both carpenters and contractors.[9] Their first lodge building was on the south side of California Street between Third and Fourth Streets.[10] In 1859, they erected a building on the Court House Square. The county had its offices on the ground floor,[11] while the Masons retained the second floor for their own use. In 1867, the County Commissioners paid the Masons $700 for release of their rights to the second floor.[12]

In September 1874, the Lodge began assembling parcels of land to construct a large brick hall, which was to have shops on the ground floor and lodge rooms above. The first parcel of land--fronting on Oregon Street about twenty-one feet, and having a depth of about seventy-five feet--was acquired from James Cluggage on September 4th.[13] A few days later, W.A. and Julia Owen sold the Masons their interest in a parcel of land at the southeast corner of Oregon and California Streets.[14] The Owens held a deed they had secured from John Pawpaw seven years earlier;[15] Pawpaw, in turn, had secured a deed from James Cluggage in 1857.[16] However, Patrick McMannus also claimed ownership of this parcel. The

Masons therefore had to secure title from McMannus as well as the Owens before building on the property. The third parcel, like the first, fronted on Oregon Street about twenty-one feet and was seventy-five feet deep; it ran between the other two parcels. This land was owned by Viet and Josephine Schutz, who had acquired it eight years earlier from William and Anna Kreuzer.[17] Previous to Kreuzer's ownership, it had been a saloon operated by Henry Huber.[18] The deed is complicated, since Schutz evidently sold no ground to the Masons, but only the right to use the tops of the walls of a one-story structure he planned to build; thus the Masons could build a second story on top of another building.[19] Schutz was also to build a wall along Oregon Street from the southwest corner of his land to the north wall of the Table Rock Saloon. The wall was to have three arched openings for doors and to "correspond with the front wall of the building hereafter to be erected upon the land above conveyed by the parties of the second part [Warren Lodge No. 10, AF & AM]."[20] In addition, some land owned by Schutz on the interior of the block could be used as a brick yard during the construction of the Masonic Building.[21] Later in September, the Masons conveyed to Schutz the land they had acquired from Cluggage three weeks earlier, excepting the right to build on the walls; they also retained the right to build a second story above the one-story structure Schutz would erect, and the right to a staircase six feet wide near the south door of the building.[22]

By the end of September and early October, the Masons were contracting with G.H. Young to dig trenches for the foundations, to build the foundations themselves, and to build a kiln for firing bricks. The trenches were to extend down to bedrock and were to be sufficient for a rock-and-mortar foundation two feet thick. Along the north wall, the foundation was to be fifty feet long; along the west wall, about forty-six feet long; and running south, along the line of the west wall of George Schumpf's new building, about twenty-one feet long. Along the twenty-five-foot party wall with Schumpf's building--which fronted on California Street--the foundation would be only one foot thick.[23] Any other foundation walls were to be provided by Viet Schutz.

The name of the person responsible for the erection of the walls above the foundation is not known, but that work also may have been done by G.H. Young. In the spring of 1875, John Cimbrosky and Jacob Schmidling contracted to provide fifteen door sills of varying lengths and widths, all seven inches thick.[24] The building was probably substantially completed by mid-1875. The rooms on the ground floor were rented for a number of different kinds of establishments, including a doctor's office,[25] Kreuzer's Bakery,[26] E. Jacob's general store,[27] and a room for the Young Men's Literary and Reading Room Association.[28] The hall on the second floor was used as a general social hall as well as a Masonic Lodge.[29]

FOOTNOTES

1 Jackson County Deeds, April 4, 1853.

2 Ibid., September 20, 1854.

3 The Democratic Times, July 6, 1872.

4 Ibid., February 24, 1872.

5 A.G. Walling, History of Southern Oregon, Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry, and Coos Counties (Portland, Oregon: The Publishing House of A.G. Walling, 1884), p. 373.

6 Ibid., p. 367.

7 Walling, History of Southern Oregon, biographical appendix.

8 Jackson County Deeds, September 22, 1881; Solomon is leasing a business property for his store.

9 Jackson County Commissioners' Journals, September 18, 1854. Information on profession comes from the jury list.

10 Jackson County Deeds, April 9, 1855. The instrument is a mortgage on a building known as the "Masonic Hall" on California Street between Charles Casey's building and Cozort Rolls' blacksmith shop; on the map of Jacksonville (1864), a building between Third and Fourth Streets on California Street is identified as owned by Casey's heirs.

11 Jackson County Commissioners' Journals, March 7, 1859.

12 Jackson County Deeds, October 10, 1867.

13
Ibid., September 4, 1874.

14
Ibid., September 8, 1874.

15
Ibid., August 21, 1867.

16
Ibid., December 7, 1857.

17
Ibid., June 27, 1866.

18
Town of Jacksonville Board of Trustees' Minutes, April 10, 1861, February 1, 1862, and February 9, 1863.

19
Jackson County Deeds, September 11, 1874. The wording in the deed allowed the Masonic Lodge to use the walls of the building down to the level of the ceiling of the first floor of the building.

20
Ibid., September 11, 1874.

21
Ibid., September 11, 1874.

22
Ibid., September 23, 1874.

23
"Agreement between J.N.T. Miller, John Miller, A.M. Berry, and C.C. Beekman, building committee for Warren Lodge No. 10 and G.H. Young for provision of bricks for bake oven on Viet Schutz property," September 28, 1874, Warren Lodge MSS, Oregon Historical Society MSS 965. "Agreement with G.H. Young for Foundation," October 19, 1874, Warren Lodge MSS, Oregon Historical Society MSS 965.

24
"Agreement with Cimbrosky and Schmidling," March 5, 1875, Warren Lodge MSS, Oregon Historical Society MSS 965.

25
The Democratic Times, May 9, 1879.

26
Ibid., August 9, 1878.

27
Ibid., October 24, 1879.

28
Ibid., January 30, 1880.

29
"Diary of Moses Allen Williams," May 17, 1882, MSS in Jacksonville Museum, Jacksonville, Oregon.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Description of Exterior:

1. Number of stories: The entire building is two stories.

2. Number of bays: Front (north) facade is seven bays; four of these bays follow the semicircular arch motif that characterizes the building, and three are treated as an independent shop facade. The side (west) elevation is ten bays.

3. Layout, shape: The building is a rectangular block.

4. Wall construction, finish, color: The walls are brick painted white. At one time, a balcony wrapped around the north and west facades.

5. Chimneys: Small chimneys for stove flues rise behind the roof parapet.

6. Openings:

a. Arcades: On Oregon Street, the ground slopes downward to the north, with the result that the bays are taller toward the northwest corner of the building. The bays are grouped in threes, starting with the second bay from the southwest corner. Brick piers have stepped brick bases and capitals; they are articulated with shallow recessed panels. As the ground slopes downward, the groups of arches are also lowered; at the junctures, the

piers are awkwardly split, half responding to each group of arches. The arches themselves have three-stepped archivolts; the inner is a row of headers on edge, the next two rows of headers on edge, and the outer two rows of headers laid flat and projecting beyond the wall surface. At the northwest corner, the pier is broader and the capital turns the corner; the arcading is continued in the first four bays on the California Street facade. The southwest bay, which leads to a staircase to the second-floor Masonic Hall, has a keystone that breaks above the extrados of the arch and has the Masonic emblem on its face.

b. Shop facade: The three-bay shop facade is topped by a lintel resting on piers. The central doorway is recessed behind the plane of the wall; this recess is flanked by small columns. There is a transom light over the door. The windows are rectangular openings with four-light, fixed sash above horizontal rectangular panels.

c. Second floor: The second-floor windows are all identical. Although uniformly spaced along both facades, they are not aligned vertically over the bays of the first floor. The walls between the windows are given a cap at the level of the window head; this continues around the building as a string course. The openings have stone sills and molded stone lintels. Each window has two double-hung sash of four panes. On the north facade, the third opening from the northwest corner is a doorway, with casement doors and a two-light transom; each leaf of the door is glazed with four panes.

7. Roof:

a. Shape: The roof is flat, hidden behind a parapet.

b. Cornice: The plane of the wall advances slightly below an arched corbel table. The corbel table supports paired, scroll-shaped brackets which carry the boxed cornice; a bulb-shaped knob is pendant from the outer edge of each bracket, immediately under the cornice. The pairs of brackets are spaced over the walls between the second-story windows.

B. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans; The California Street facade is divided into

two shops; the northwest corner shop is three bays deep on South Oregon Street. The next six bays on South Oregon Street are a large room. The southern bay is the staircase to the second-floor Masonic Hall.

2. Staircase: The staircase rises in a straight run along the south wall of the building.

C. Site and Surroundings:

The north facade faces California Street. The west elevation parallels South Oregon Street. The structure is built flush with the edge of the property line. The adjoining buildings are one story.

D. Original Appearance:

The building once had a balcony on the north and west facades. The South Oregon Street facade was divided into shops and stores.

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