

**CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO
CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY
FIELD FORM 1988-1989**

HIST. NAME: Odd Fellows Hall
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1890
COMMON NAME:
ORIGINAL USE: Fraternal hall
ADDRESS: 295 Durham Street
OWNER: Snowden, Charles R. and Juliana
Wood, 1793 Childs Road
PRESENT USE: Vacant
ARCH./BLDR.: Schmalz and Birkemier,
Builders
T/R/S: 2S 1E 10AD
TAX LOT: 1200

STYLE: Italianate
RESOURCE TYPE:
Building
THEME: Architecture;
Social; Government
ADDITION: Oswego
BLOCK: 5
LOT: N/A
QUAD: Lake Oswego
LOT SIZE: .23
ZONE: DD

PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: Rectangular
NO. OF STORIES: 2
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Cement and stone piers
BASEMENT: Unknown
ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: Gable; composition shingles

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Wood
STRUCTURAL FRAME: Stud
PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: Double-hung sash w/heavy architrave molding
EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Shiplap w/cornerboards
DECORATIVE FEATURES: Stepped parapet, segmentally-arched central element

OTHER: Paired, vertical paneled doors w/transom; multi-light display windows; exterior chimney w/corbelled cap
CONDITION: Good
EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Storefront covered over, (c. 1984)
NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: None
ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: None

SETTING: Located on the northeast corner of Durham and Church Streets, in the Old Town neighborhood; area comprised of late 19th and early 20th century residences and some post World War II multi-family buildings
NOTES:

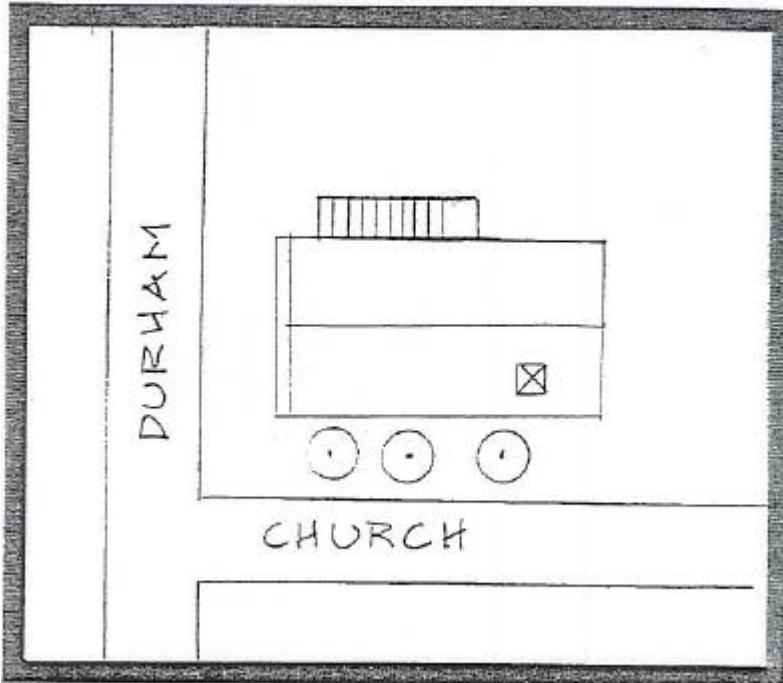
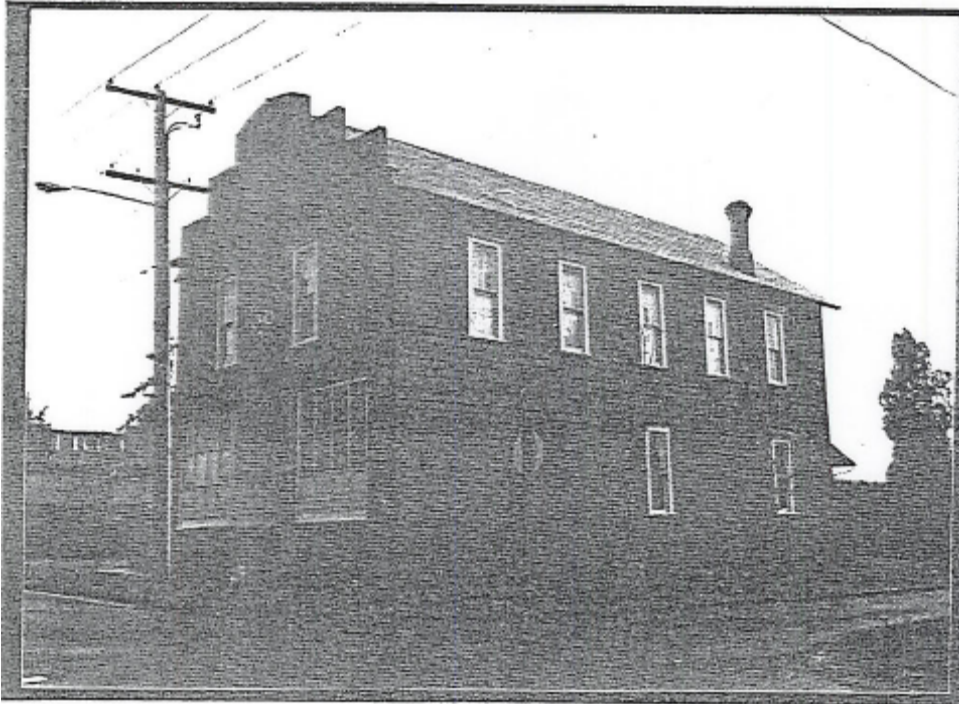
RECORDER(S): Koler/Morrison DATE: January 1989
SHPO #: 375 FIELD #: 173

CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO
CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

ADDRESS 295 DURHAM STREET

TAX MAP / LOT 2S 1E 10AD/1200

SHPO# _____ ROLL/FRAME# _____



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Address: 295 Durham Street

Historic Name: Lake Oswego Odd Fellows Hall

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The Lake Oswego Odd Fellows Hall is significant in Lake Oswego history as a place of social and public gatherings. It is also significant as one of only two non-residential buildings in the city which is designed in the Italianate style. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

On August 24, 1888, Oswego Lodge Number 93, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted. Original members were E. A. Knotts, A. J. Monk, Michael Long, James W. O'Connell, Henry Gans, James Altman, Joseph Zimmerman, William Dyer and John E. Cronk. Applications for initiation into the lodge were received at the first meeting from George W. Prosser, Jacob S. Kisley, his son John F. Risley and A. W. Shipley. All of these men were either farmers or businessmen in and around Oswego. Many, like George Prosser, added greatly to the town's prosperity and growth. Also, at the first meeting, the Samaritan, Hassalo and Minerva Lodges presented the new lodge with an organ.

The first meetings were held in a hall owned by George Prosser. Prosser Hall was located one block south of the eventual site of the Odd Fellows Hall and was later destroyed by fire. In order to raise money for a hall of their own, excursions from Portland to Oswego were held two times a month. Up to 150 people from all of the Portland Odd Fellows Lodges took part. One such excursion took place on Friday evening, August 24, 1888. Odd Fellows members and their families departed for Oswego from the Taylor Street Wharf aboard the Steamer Joseph Kellogg at 7:15 sharp. They were met at the landing on Sucker Creek and escorted into town to a meeting and to dinner.

The land on which the Odd Fellows Hall stands was bought for \$500 in November, 1889. Plans for the hall were made and the building was constructed in 1890 by Schmalz and Birkemier Contractors at a cost of \$2,325. Quickly added to the contract was the building of a front porch, sidewalk, fence and woodshed. Furnishings were bought from Ira F. Powers for \$365.81.

On November 26, 1890, the new hall was dedicated with a meeting followed by a dinner and ball. Odd Fellows members and their wives in full regalia came to the event from Portland by train. Meetings were held every Monday night. A group of men, Jacob S. Risley, his sons John, Franklin, and Charles, along with their neighbors John and Philip Oatfield, crossed the Willamette River from the Risley Donation Land Claim, on the east side of the river, by rowboat in order to make the meetings. In the early days, 50 to 100 people would come to each meeting. The room upstairs in the hall was used for both meetings and square dancing.

A doctor's office with living quarters and a drugstore were housed on the first floor of the building for several years around the turn of the century. Later, these were removed and the hall was used strictly for meetings and social events.

The Odd Fellows Hall was used as a voting place for several years, housing the first Lake Oswego city elections. The building has been used by many other groups as well. The Eastern Star met there in the early 1920's, as did the American Legion in the 1950's. The Lake Oswego Community Theater made their home in the Odd Fellows Hall in the 1950's, putting on several productions including "Beloved Rake."

Fraternal organizations, in recent years, have not been very successful in retaining their membership. In 1975, membership in the Lake Oswego Odd Fellows had dropped so low that they sold their meeting hall and joined other nearby lodges. The building is presently being used for storage.

The Hall is a fine example of the Italianate style, possessing the requisite physical features, including a prominent parapet. The storefront--now covered--was originally composed of a recessed entrance, paired doors and transom, and multi-light display windows and storefront cornice are all characteristic of the style. The double-hung Sash windows with architrave molding and corbelled chimney pot are also typical features. The Hall appears to remain essentially as constructed, with only minor alterations.

The Odd Fellows Hall stands on Furnace Street, named so because it led north from the iron foundry furnace overlooking the river.

Bibliography: Clackamas County Cultural Resource Inventory, Department of Transportation and Development, 1984, #61.
National Register of Historic Places, nomination form, 1978.