

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JAN 21 1976  
DATE ENTERED MAY 13 1976

# 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  Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall

AND/OR COMMON  
Pythian Castle

## LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
30 E. Idaho St. \_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Weiser \_\_ VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
1

STATE  
Idaho CODE COUNTY CODE  
Washington 087

## 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Lodge

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Knights of Pythias

STREET & NUMBER  
30 E. Idaho St.

CITY, TOWN  
Weiser \_\_ VICINITY OF STATE  
Idaho

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
E. Court and 2nd

CITY, TOWN  
Weiser STATE  
Idaho

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Idaho State Historic Preservation Plan

DATE  
1970, 1972 \_\_ FEDERAL \_\_ STATE  COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN  
Boise STATE  
Idaho

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pythian Castle, built in 1904, was designed by the firm of Tourtellotte and Company of Boise. It presents the appearance of a medieval castle whose interior reflects turn-of-the-century conceptions and business requirements. The first floor of this two-story 32 x 100 foot building is a store space, and the upstairs is the meeting hall for the Knights of Pythias.

The symmetrical cut-stone structure faces south. Two plate-glass windows make up the first floor, with a glass door at the eastern corner. Three cut-stone columns break up the first story's facade and culminate in Romanesque arches over the plate glass windows. A stone band separates the first and second stories. A large, centered window, originally stained glass but now boarded over, dominates the second story. It has a corbelled Tudor arch and is flanked by two double-hung sash windows with small stained glass transoms, also capped by Tudor arches. Four cylindrical pilasters extend the length of the second story. The two interior pilasters extend the length of the second story. The two interior pilasters are wider and terminate as miniature towers with flagstaffs. The entire building is surmounted by crenellated battlements.

Except for the boarded-over window and a first-floor awning, this structure remains unaltered. The richly textured sculptured stone surfaces are an outstanding feature of the building.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- 1904	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Tourtellotte and Company

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pythian Castle is an interesting and unique structure. The Weiser Signal described it as "the finest of its kind in the West." That claim is not far from the truth, for its imaginative styling makes it a significant structure among American lodge halls.

The Weiser lodge of the Knights of Pythias was formed in 1897. It was preceded by two other fraternal organizations, the Odd Fellows and Masons. Being the newest fraternal order, the Knights of Pythias desired to have a meeting hall superior to others in the area. The resulting Pythians' lodge hall stands as a reflection of the tastes and aspirations of a newly emerging business class in Weiser.

The building was designed by Tourtellotte and Company, the foremost architectural firm in southern Idaho at the time. The cut stone for the front was supplied by Roberts and Sheff and quarried at Sand Hollow, near Weiser. The stone was hauled to town and hand cut on the site to fit. The mason work was contracted by Hamilton and Reader of Weiser, and the total cost of the building was \$9,000.00.





PYTHIAN CASTLE

1904

GALLAGHER'S  
SECOND HAND STORE  
New & Used Men's Suits at 1/2 Price

AMERICAN

WATER  
WELL

WATER  
WELL

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall

AND/OR COMMON Pythian Castle

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN Weiser

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

Washington  
COUNTY

Idaho  
STATE

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT Garrett Photography

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Garrett Photography

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Looking north at the Pythian Castle

PHOTO NO.

1 of 1