

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Melba I.O.O.F. HallOther names/site number: Gardner Hotel; Melba Valley Museum

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: 310 Carrie Rex AvenueCity or town: Melba State: Idaho County: Canyon

Not For Publication:

N/A

Vicinity:

N/A**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C DSignature of certifying official/Title: Tricia Canaday, Deputy SHPO

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title:

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☒

District

☐

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Site

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Hotel (1919-1926)

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall (1927-1999)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION & CULTURE: Museum

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: Concrete

Walls: Wood

Roof: Composition

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall sits facing west on three slightly sloping lots near the intersection of Carrie Rex Avenue and Third Street in Melba, a community located in Canyon County in southwestern Idaho. The lot, which slopes down from the adjacent alley, features a gravel parking lot on the north and south sides. The two-story, front-gabled wood building is rectangular-shaped with deep, overhanging eaves supported by triangular knee braces on the east and west. Originally constructed as a hotel in 1919, the building was significantly altered for the Odd Fellows beginning in 1927, and retains integrity across the seven aspects from that period. It retains good integrity of design, workmanship, and feeling, and excellent integrity of location, setting, materials, and association.

Narrative Description

Location and Setting

The Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall sits in southwest Canyon County, Idaho. Melba is a small farming community with a population of 572. It lies within the Snake River Valley and is located in a large open valley, surrounded by agricultural fields and some suburban development.

Located in the commercial section of Melba, the Lodge Hall property occupies the northeast corner of the intersection of Carrie Rex Avenue and Third Street, with the building set back from Third Street by a dirt parking lot and oriented towards Carrie Rex Avenue. Melba's commercial district stretches along Carrie Rex Avenue and Broadway Avenue to the west and primarily consists of one-story vernacular buildings constructed between 1913 and 1969. The Lodge Hall's

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immediate neighbors include Melba City Hall (401 Carrie Rex Avenue), originally built as the Melba Fire Station in 1962, and later converted to city offices. The Melba Post Office, constructed in 1969, sits directly north of the Lodge Hall. The Melba Valley Tower Theatre, built in 1946, and currently owned by the Melba Friends Church is at the intersection of Carrie Rex Avenue and Murphy Road. There are several buildings across from the Lodge Hall which includes a gas station and restaurant. Some of the buildings are vacant and have housed a variety of businesses over the years.

A parking lot, once the site of the Church of Latter-Day Saints, borders the lot on the south. The building abuts a narrow sidewalk on the west. There is a gravel parking lot on the north and alley borders the lot to the east. There is no formal landscaping associated with the building. A concrete walk leads from the sidewalk on the west side of the building and intersects with a concrete walk with three steps leading from the gravel parking lot. The concrete walks intersect at the side door where a metal safety light is centered over the door.

Building Description

Exterior

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall is a two-story, front-gabled wood frame building with a rectangular-shaped footprint. It features deep, overhanging eaves supported by triangular knee braces on the east and west. The building sits on a poured concrete foundation, with exterior walls in narrow gauge wood siding. The window and door frames are painted dark grey. The windows have an uneven fenestration pattern.

The front façade faces west, featuring six window openings on the first story. Four of the windows that were originally double-hung wood windows have been modified with the lower half boarded over. The other windows are covered with wood siding. The windows and the window openings are surrounded by trim. Two signs for the Melba Valley Museum are mounted on the first-floor level. One is mounted over the wood covering the lower half of the windows near the southwest corner of the building. The second sign is centered over the windows and features a gable pitch roof outline trimmed in green. A third sign, displaying information about the building's history and its use as the I.O.O.F. Hall, is located between the covered windows and the southwest corner of the building. Historic images show windows in the upper story of the facade. The windows remain but have been covered with wood siding. The deep eaves of the gable feature five knee brace brackets, and there is a vertical wood gable vent centered below the roof peak.

The north elevation faces a parking area and the Melba U.S. Post Office next door. This elevation has an irregular fenestration pattern. The first story features one fixed-wood window, and one paired double-hung window. Wood slats cover two tall rectangular windows and two square windows that flank either side of a metal entry door accessing the kitchen. A white-painted brick chimney is visible on this elevation. An entrance at the northwest corner has been filled in. The 1922 rear addition is identified by a change in the width of the wood siding. The roof rafter tips are visible under the deep eaves. A second entrance at the northeast corner has

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also been filled in. The second story originally had seven double-hung windows, today four windows are exposed and the remaining three have been covered.

The east (rear) elevation has no fenestration on the first story. A five-part wood door, painted grey, is centered on the wall, and formerly accessed the southeast exhibit room. If there were steps leading to the door, they have been removed and the door appears to “float” above the foundation. The second story features a second door, placed slightly off-center, leading from the second-floor interior stair landing. This door is also not accessible as there is no exterior stairway. There are windows on either side of the door. The window to the south of the door is an original double-hung wood window. The window on the north side is boarded over. Above the second story, there are two louvered attic vents below the peak of the roof and four knee brace brackets under the roof eaves.

The south elevation faces the parking lot and features the main entrance to the building, the fire escape, and windows on the first and second stories. The first story has seven original double-hung wood windows, all of which have been fully or partially covered. The main entrance to the building is at the southwest corner. A six-panel metal door is reached via a concrete step with metal railings and mesh fence. A corrugated metal shed roof supported by metal poles has been placed over the door. Originally, the fenestration on the second story was seven double-hung wood windows. Of the seven windows, four remain. Two of the windows have been covered with siding, and the remaining opening has been converted to any emergency exit. A brick exterior chimney is located between the entry door and the fire escape. A 1922 rear addition to the building is visible, identified by a change in the width of the wood siding.

Interior

The interior layout and features of the former hotel date to the Odd Fellows period. Common features include wood paneling, plaster walls, and wood trim. The first floor has three rooms, that include a large main room (formerly the I.O.O.F. recreation hall), a kitchen and the southeast exhibit room (formerly the I.O.O.F. dining hall). The southeast exhibit room is accessed from the entry room by a hallway. There is a large exhibit room (I.O.O.F. lodge room) on the second floor, and two small former hotel rooms used for storage.

Through the front entry at the southwest corner of the building, visitors enter a large rectangular main room used for museum exhibits, office, and work area. The I.O.O.F. used this space as a recreation hall. The high ceiling is supported by wood posts and “Y” wood braces. The wall that encloses the furnace room and limited storage is smooth and painted white. The remaining walls are covered with wood paneling. Schoolhouse light fixtures mounted on the ceiling illuminate the room. Track lighting has also been installed recently.

There are two doorways in the main room, one on the south leading to a hallway with a bathroom and storage closet, then into the southeast exhibit room, which is L-shaped in plan and was used as a dining hall by the I.O.O.F. This room has a dropped ceiling with acoustic tiles, which hides metal ducting, and wood paneled walls. The second doorway, on the north, leads into the former kitchen, now used for kitchen-related exhibits. A pass-through window provides

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access from the southeast exhibit room from the kitchen. A stairway to the second floor on the east end of the north wall is accessed from the kitchen and the southeast exhibit room via a short hallway.

The rectangular kitchen, with high ceilings and smooth plastered walls, is accessed by a five-panel wood door from the main room. The sink is on the south wall. Built-in wood cabinets line the east wall below the pass-through. Tables provide exhibit space for a variety of kitchen implements. A non-operational historic refrigerator and a functional modern refrigerator are installed on the south wall. As visitors exit the kitchen on the east, they have access to the short hallway leading to the stairway to the second floor.

The carpeted stairway has wood handrails on both sides. At the tenth step, there is a landing, and the stairway extends another six steps to the top, where there are two extant hotel rooms from the 1922 addition. The rooms have plaster walls, wood trim and wood doors which are original. On the north side of the landing, a carpeted ramp with wood handrails leads to the second story exhibit area, formerly the I.O.O.F. lodge room. The room is a large rectangular space with wood paneled walls and a high ceiling covered in acoustical tiles. The room is illuminated by a mixture of modern track lighting and three illuminated pendent lights. Two of the latter are glass pendant lights, the other is a modern flared globe light. Two fans have been attached to the ceiling. Many of the windows are covered by paneling; those that remain feature light-blocking shades and maintain their original wood trim. One-foot wood risers, once used for lodge activities, line the north and south walls. The risers are now used to exhibit artifacts. Small cases and exhibits occupy the remainder of the open space.

Change Over Time

The current appearance of the Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall dates to the Odd Fellows' ownership. Prior to the 1927 to 1973 period of significance, the building underwent several major alterations when it functioned as a hotel. As originally constructed in 1919, the building had a flat roof. In 1922, a rear addition to the building enlarged the hotel from ten to fifteen bedrooms on the second floor. After 1922, a gabled roof replaced the original flat roof.

When the Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge acquired the building in 1927, major interior alterations were made to accommodate lodge activities over time. Most of the second-floor hotel rooms were demolished to create the lodge room. Support posts were left in place until they were removed with another remodel to enlarge the space for dances and other lodge activities. Some of the windows were covered during the 1960s as a cost-saving measure due to window damage from local children, the windows remain behind the coverings. Downstairs, the original kitchen was demolished, and a recreation hall was created. First-story rooms, possibly formerly the living quarters for the Gardner family, were demolished for the construction of a new kitchen. The I.O.O.F. installed a fire escape in 1928, repaired it in 1945, and replaced it in 1949. The 1949 fire escape was replaced in 1970.

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Known alterations since the period of significance have been minor, these include:

- 1999: Aluminum windows and wall paneling installed on the first floor.
- 2012: Exterior sign installed at southwest corner of the building.
- 2015: Low-density attic insulation installed.
- 2015-2016: Re-wiring of the electrical system.
- 2016: Rotten joists under the first-floor landing replaced.
- 2016-2019: Original wood windows refurbished.
- 2017: Metal fire escape installed on the south wall.
- 2020-2022: Interior track lighting installed to better illuminate museum exhibits.¹

Integrity Statement

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall retains integrity across each of the seven aspects from the 1927-1973 period of significance when it housed the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs. It retains integrity of location, as it has not been moved, as well as its integrity of setting since it still sits in a rural community. Despite the minor changes noted in the previous section, its integrity of design and workmanship remain intact as it continues to embody the elements of a vernacular style building, built with minimal elaboration as a utilitarian structure. It retains its integrity of materials as the exterior wood siding has not been covered or replaced. The I.O.O.F. Hall's location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship contribute to its integrity of feeling. Although it no longer serves as a fraternal lodge hall, the building retains its association as a rural community meeting hall. Overall, the property maintains good integrity of design, workmanship, and feeling, and excellent integrity of location, setting, materials, and association.

¹ Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge No. 150, transcribed minutes 1923-1994; personal communication with Linda Morton-Keithley, Melba Valley Historical Society, 2022.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

Period of Significance

1927-1973

Significant Dates

1927 (I.O.O.F. Purchase)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Melba I.O.O.F. Hall is significant under National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criterion A, at the local level of significance. It is eligible under Criterion A in the area of significance of SOCIAL HISTORY for its association with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a significant fraternal organization, in Melba and the surrounding area. The lodge hall was a community center, the scene of many social activities as well as the local meeting place for the Odd Fellows and the Rebekahs. The period of significance for the Melba I.O.O.F. Hall is 1927-1973, beginning with the Odd Fellows acquisition of the building and ending roughly fifty years from the present. This endpoint reflects the property's continued use as a fraternal building until 1999 and the fifty-year age convention of the NRHP.

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Settlement and Early History of Melba

Melba is located in Canyon County, just west of the Ada County border and six miles north of the Snake River. The region is within the Snake River Plain that stretches for miles across southern Idaho. Bands of Shoshone and Shoshone Paiute hunted and fished as they followed the waterways through the area. In the early 19th century fur trappers entered the region, following rivers to trap beaver. The Hudson's Bay Company established a fur trading post, Fort Boise in 1834, where the Boise and Snake Rivers meet near present-day Parma. It served as a trading post and a stop on the Oregon Trail from 1834 to 1854.

The discovery of gold in 1862 in the Boise Basin northeast of the Boise Valley brought an explosion of miners and settlers to the region. In 1863, the federal government established a military Fort Boise to protect the interests of the miners and pioneers traveling on the Oregon Trail. Fort Boise was a detriment to the Native Americans in the region who were forcibly removed from the Boise Valley to reservations by the mid-1860s.

The mining boom of the 1860s led to the founding of Boise City, as it was first known, on July 7, 1863. Ada County was established on December 22, 1864, with Boise City as the county seat. Miners and others followed roads that were conduits to the mining areas around Idaho City northeast of Boise and Silver City in the Owyhee Mountains to the southwest. Stage service in the area began in 1864. Boise was connected to Salt Lake City by Ben Holladay's Overland Stage Company which provided a four-day schedule between the cities. In 1867 the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific railroads were in a transcontinental race across the country, but rail lines did not reach southwest Idaho Territory until 1882.²

By the late 1890s, the extension of the Oregon Short Line from Granger, Wyoming, to Huntington, Oregon, led to the establishment of communities along the line across southern Idaho, including Nampa and Caldwell west of Boise. The growth of these towns and the surrounding countryside led to the establishment of Canyon County, split from western Ada County, in 1891. Mining in the Owyhee mining district had slowed down, but cattle ranching had grown, giving a boost to the area until the severe winters of the 1880s impacted, but did not destroy the livestock industry. Large-scale mining operations resumed in the 1890s when improved rail access and major investments in mines producing lower-grade ore than the earlier mines led to a new mining boom and the construction of the Boise, Nampa, and Owyhee Railway (BN&O) from Nampa to Murphy. The mining boom lasted into the second decade of the twentieth century, at the same time irrigated agriculture began to grow, thanks to projects supported by the 1902 Reclamation Act, including Deer Flat Reservoir (1909) and Arrowrock Dam (1915) which brought people to the area even before the water was available.

² Leonard Arrington, *History of Idaho* (Univ of Idaho Press, 1995).

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Melba was founded in 1912 in the hope of a bright future for agriculture.³ Despite the availability of land and the planned availability of irrigation water, it was several years before the early homesteaders in the area were able to generate income from their small acreages. As they waited, the earliest homesteaders often worked at jobs in Nampa and Caldwell, traveling back and forth to their claims where their families remained to establish the residency requirements. The first water was delivered in 1914.⁴

Melba was established on forty acres of land purchased by C. C. Todd, who had brought his family to Idaho from California after a friend told him about the coming irrigation boom. Born in 1857 in Pike County, Missouri, Todd had already found success as a citrus farmer and phosphate miner in Florida, and with investments in Texas and California oil fields. When his oil investments in California began to yield lower returns, he determined to move on to Alaska before learning about the potential in Idaho. The land he purchased was near a site known as Rock Spur on the BN&O. He platted a town of ten blocks, northeast of the railroad tracks, with four north-south running avenues, and four east-west running streets. He named the longest avenue for the daughter of his first marriage, Carrie Rex, and named the town Melba for the young daughter of his second wife, whom he had adopted.

As the water supply increased, the community began to grow with the construction of homes and commercial buildings, including the Gardner Hotel (now the Melba I.O.O.F. Hall), a two-story building on Carrie Rex Avenue built in 1919. The building was built by Ben and Mary Eckley Gardner and their daughter Iva Gardener Sturm in 1919 to provide housing for construction workers building ditches, canals, and roads. Mary Gardner cooked for the boarders and Iva and her husband Tom Sturm managed the boarding house. The building originally had a dining room and kitchen on the first floor with bedrooms upstairs. An addition on the back of the building around 1922 provided additional rooms. The rates were \$1.00 a night for a room or \$2.50 for two people. If a person was working on the ditches or roads, the rooms would rent by the month for \$25.00.

The farmers, after waiting for water now faced the challenge of what to grow. Like many others, the first crop was hay to feed their own livestock and to sell to the local cattle and sheep ranchers. As the water supply became more secure, in the 1920s, potatoes became an important cash crop, with Melba's shipments making the news for the large quantity of potatoes produced. By the late 1920s, seed production began when Henry and Clifford Haynes planted the first sweet corn for seed production for the Crookham Seed Company in Caldwell. Other Melba Valley farmers joined that effort and production grew until Melba grew the majority of hybrid seed corn in the United States. Other seed crops were planted as well, and Melba became known as the Seed Heart of America. Agricultural production continues in the 21st century, with farmers

³ Merrill Beal, *Intermountain Railroads: Standard and Narrow Gauge*, First Edition (The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1962); "The Owyhee Country," (Idaho State Historical Society, 1964) accessed December 18th, 2022, <https://history.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/0200.pdf>.

⁴Madge Cook Wylie, *Melba Our Home Town*, (Ron & Pam Wright, 1987).

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in the area growing potatoes, beans, sugar beets, onions, corn, and grain as well as seed crops including onions, carrots, peas, beans, and sweet corn seed as well as alfalfa and clover.⁵

Criterion A: Social History

History of the Odd Fellows in Melba

Melba Lodge #150 was chartered in October of 1920. One of the founding members recalled that several Melba residents were interested in having a local lodge so they would not have to go to Nampa, where the nearest I.O.O.F. lodge was located. By the time of the annual Grand Lodge meeting later in 1920, the new Melba Lodge had 24 members.⁶

The new organization rented space from C.C. Todd in an unidentified building for \$45.00 a month, part of which was paid from rent collected from the Grange and the Melba Modern Woodmen which both met twice a month in the space rented by the Odd Fellows. As early as 1924 the lodge members were discussing building or buying their own lodge hall, but it would be several years before this would occur.

Melba lodge members joined a fraternal organization that was established in Idaho in 1864. That year Pioneer Lodge #1, I.O.O.F. was established in Idaho City. The Odd Fellows originated in England in the 18th century, an organization similar to the Freemasons, but with an emphasis on service. The term "Odd Fellows" may refer to the original groups being made up of members of work guilds who functioned as general contractors rather than specialists with a particular skill such as masonry. The first lodges in the United States were organized in the first decades of the 19th century by recent immigrants from England in New York City, Boston, Baltimore, and Baltimore. The founders sought to organize the new lodges under the auspices of the English organization. In 1826 the American Odd Fellows lodges were granted a charter by the Manchester Unity as the Grand Lodge of America, Order of Independent Odd Fellows. In 1843, the American Odd Fellows formally broke away from the English organization and became the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.). Eight years later, in 1851, the Odd Fellows became the first fraternal organization to allow women to become members when the Daughters of Rebekah, now known as the Rebekahs, was founded. The Odd Fellows is a fraternal organization, originally a way to help make connections and build community, but also with an eye toward providing services. The three links symbol associated with the group stands for "Friendship, Truth, and Love."⁷

⁵ Madge Cook Wylie, *Melba—Seed Heart of America, An Historical Overview*, (3rd ed., n.d); official website, City of Melba, <https://cityofmelba.org/>.

⁶ Waletta S. Morrow, *Idaho's Century of Triple Links: A History of Idaho's 100 Years of Odd Fellowship*, (Caldwell Idaho: Grand Lodge of Idaho, 1963).

⁷ "History of American Odd Fellowship," Independent Order of Odd Fellows, March 8, 2019, <https://odd-fellows.org/history/wildeys-odd-fellowship/>; "The Odd Fellows and Freemasons: Different Paths to the Same Goal," <https://oddfellowsguide.com/2017/09/22/the-odd-fellows-and-freemasons-different-paths-to-the-same-goal/>.

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The Melba I.O.O.F. Hall

In 1927 the Melba Lodge found a permanent home in the old Gardner Hotel. The hotel changed hands in 1924 when Ben Gardener traded the hotel to D.M. Cox of Cascade for an 80-acre ranch near Shoshone. Mr. Cox then leased the hotel to J.M. Nichols who managed it. In 1925 Cox sold the building to P.E. Lawler, another resident of Cascade. Mr. Lawler offered to sell the building to the Lodge, who purchased the hotel for \$300 cash, with \$100 put up by the Rebekahs. By May 16, the building had been dedicated as the new lodge hall.

The building required extensive repairs and major remodeling to serve as a lodge hall. According to founding member John Kannegaard, the members did the work and raised the money to do it:

“We remodeled the building. There were rooms upstairs and rooms downstairs, plus a kitchen in what is now known as our recreation room. We tore those rooms out of the whole upstairs. We left the posts upstairs like we have in that recreation [room], but eventually that was not good enough. We were younger at that time and many of the brothers liked to dance, and their wives liked to dance. And there we had the hall, but the posts in the middle were in the way, so with volunteer labor, we put a gable roof on it. So, we gave dances and made a little money; and our finances were so that we put a little money away in U.S. Savings bonds.... The building was swaying too much to hold public dances, so we quit. Then, also, the music was too expensive to make any money at it.”⁸

Through the years, the lodge was remodeled to meet the changing needs of the Odd Fellows and the Rebekahs, as well as to improve the structure and keep it stable. A particular challenge was keeping up with the repair of the many windows, which were frequent targets of destruction. In the lodge minutes, the topic came up for discussion at many meetings. The problem was finally resolved when the lodge room was paneled in the late 1960s and the windows were covered on the inside with paneling and blocked on the exterior, resulting in the building's current appearance.

The Odd Fellows were active in Melba for many years, providing financial and practical support to fellow lodge members and their families, as well as the community in general. The members raised money to support the “Home on the Hill,” the Odd Fellows Home for the Aged located in Caldwell; they raised money for the Children's Home in Boise and the National Eye Bank as well as raising funds to support the I.O.O.F. United Nations Pilgrimage for Youth, which provides opportunities for high school seniors to visit the United Nations.

Recent History

In 1999, as lodge membership declined, the Melba I.O.O.F. transferred ownership of the building to the Melba Rebekah Lodge No. 105 who continued to use the building. The Rebekah's gifted

⁸ Wylie, Home Town, p. 17.

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the building to the Melba Valley Historical Society in 2013 to be used as a local history museum. Over the past nine years, the MVHS has completed necessary repairs, including installing a metal fire escape salvaged from the Melba High School on the facade.

Summary

The Melba I.O.O.F. Hall remains a landmark in the community. Fraternal halls are often the center of a community's social life, and the I.O.O.F. Hall was no exception. For more than seventy years, the lodge members were active in the community and made the community welcome to activities at the lodge. The property is eligible for listing in the NRHP at the local level under Criterion A in the area of SOCIAL HISTORY for its association with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a significant fraternal organization, in Melba and the surrounding area. Largely unaltered since its 1927-1973 period of significance, the Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall retains good overall integrity and clearly conveys its former fraternal function, historic associations, and period of construction.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Beal, Merrill. *Intermountain Railroads: Standard and Narrow Gauge*. First Edition. The Caxton Printers Ltd., 1962.

Canyon County, Idaho. "Canyon County | Idaho," 2022. Accessed December 18, 2022. <https://www.canyoncounty.id.gov/>.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows. "History of American Odd Fellowship," March 8, 2019. <https://odd-fellows.org/history/wildeys-odd-fellowship/>.

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge No. 150, Minute books (1923-1994), collection of the Melba Valley Historical Society.

Morrow, Waletta S. *Idaho's Century of Triple Links: A History of Idaho's 100 Years of Odd Fellowship*. Caldwell Idaho: Grand Lodge of Idaho, 1963.

"The Odd Fellows and Freemasons: Different Paths to the Same Goal." Heart in Hand, January 8, 2019. <https://oddfellowsguide.com/2017/09/22/the-odd-fellows-and-freemasons-different-paths-to-the-same-goal/>.

Wylie, Madge Cook. *A Centennial Scrapbook of Melba 1912-2012, Including Stories from Glendale & Melmont*. The author, 2012.

_____. *Melba, Our Home Town*. Ron & Pam Wright, 2987.

_____. *Melba—Seed Heart of America, an Historical Overview*. (The author, 3rd ed., no date.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ____ previously listed in the National Register
- ____ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ____ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall

Name of Property

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____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
☒ Other

Name of repository: Melba Valley Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre (.21 acre)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

2. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

3. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

4. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 11

Easting: 538094

Northing: 4802584

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall
Name of Property

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Section 36, T1N R2W, SW ¼, Melba Original Townsite, Lots 14-16, inclusive, Blk 1

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is based on the legal description for Parcel R17540, as described in the Canyon County Assessor's records.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Barbara Perry Bauer, M.A. and Elizabeth Jacox, B.A.
organization: TAG Historical Research & Consulting a/b/n of The Arrowrock Group, Inc.
street & number: P.O. Box 7333 /401 W Idaho LL-3
city or town: Boise state: ID zip code: 83707-1333
e-mail: bpbauer@taghistory.com / ejacox@taghistory.com
telephone: 208-338-1014
date: December 21, 2022

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5- or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered, and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and does not need to be labeled on every photograph.

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall

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Figures

- 1 of 9 Vicinity Map
- 2 of 9 USGS Map
- 3 of 9 Property Boundary Map
- 4 of 9 Exterior Photo Key
- 5 of 9 Interior Photo Key
- 6 of 9 Gardner Hotel under construction, 1919
- 7 of 9 Gardner Hotel addition under construction, 1922
- 8 of 9 I.O.O.F. Hall circa 1970s after windows had been covered to prevent breakage.
- 9 of 9 I.O.O.F. building visible to the left in this c1945 aerial view of Melba.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall

City or Vicinity: Melba

County: Canyon State: Idaho

Photographer: Barbara Perry Bauer

Date Photographed: March 1, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0001
West (front) façade, Camera facing east.
- 2 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0002
West (left) and south (right) elevations, Camera facing northeast.
- 3 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0003
North (left) and west (right) elevations, Camera facing southeast.
- 4 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0004
North elevation, Camera facing southeast.
- 5 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0005
East (left) and north (right) elevations, Camera facing southwest.
- 6 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0006
East elevation, Camera facing west.

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall

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- 7 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0007
South elevation, Camera facing northwest.
- 8 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0008
West elevation (left) and south elevation (right), Camera facing northeast.
- 9 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0009
Interior First Floor, main room, Camera facing northeast.
- 10 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0010
Interior First Floor, main room, Camera facing southeast.
- 11 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0011
Interior First Floor, center hall, Camera facing east.
- 12 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0012
Interior First Floor, southeast exhibit room, Camera facing east.
- 13 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0013
Interior First Floor, southeast exhibit room, Camera facing west.
- 14 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0014
Interior First Floor, kitchen, Camera facing west.
- 15 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0015
Interior Stairway, Camera facing west.
- 16 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0016
Interior Stairway first landing from second floor, Camera facing north.
- 17 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0017
Interior Second Floor southeast hotel room, Camera facing southeast.
- 18 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0018
Interior Second Floor ramp to exhibit area, Camera facing north.
- 19 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0019
Interior Second Floor exhibit area, Camera facing west.
- 20 of 20 ID_CanyonCounty_MelbaIOOFHall_0020
Interior Second Floor exhibit area, Camera facing northwest.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct, or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall

Name of Property

Tier 3 – 230 hours

Tier 4 – 280 hours

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The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering, and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

DRAFT

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall
Name of Property

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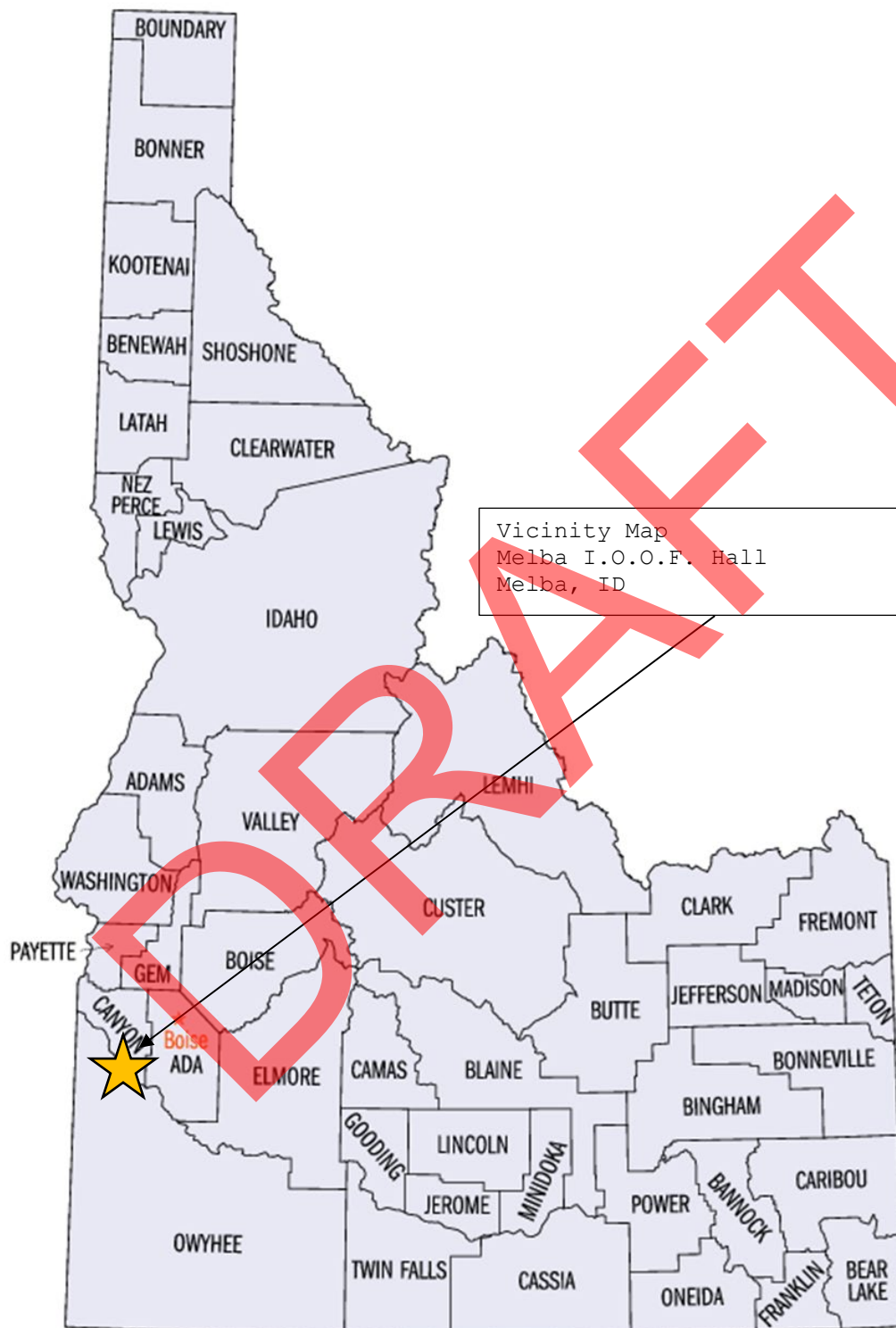


Figure 1. Vicinity Map

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall

Name of Property

Canyon, Idaho

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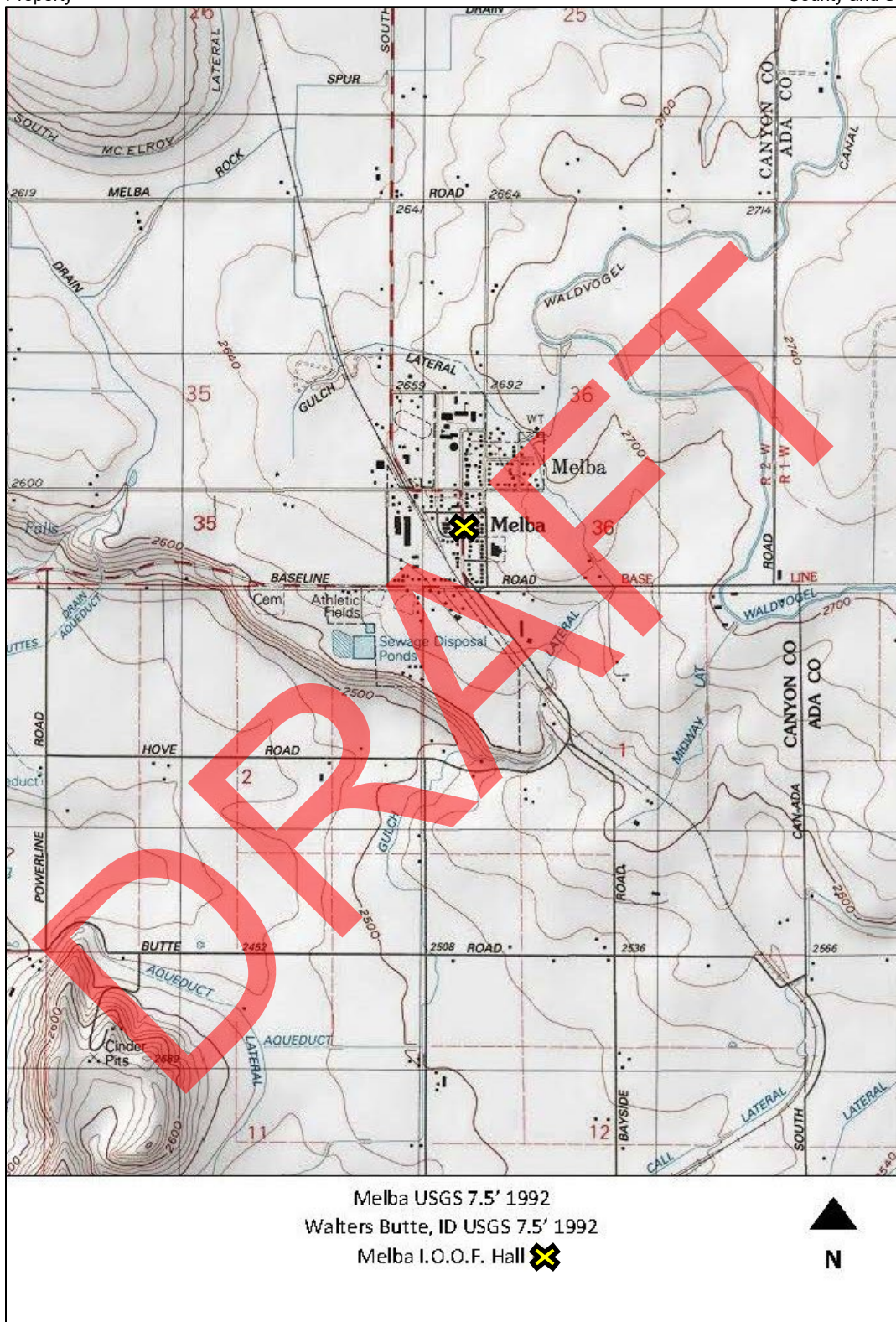


Figure 2 – USGS Map

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall
Name of Property

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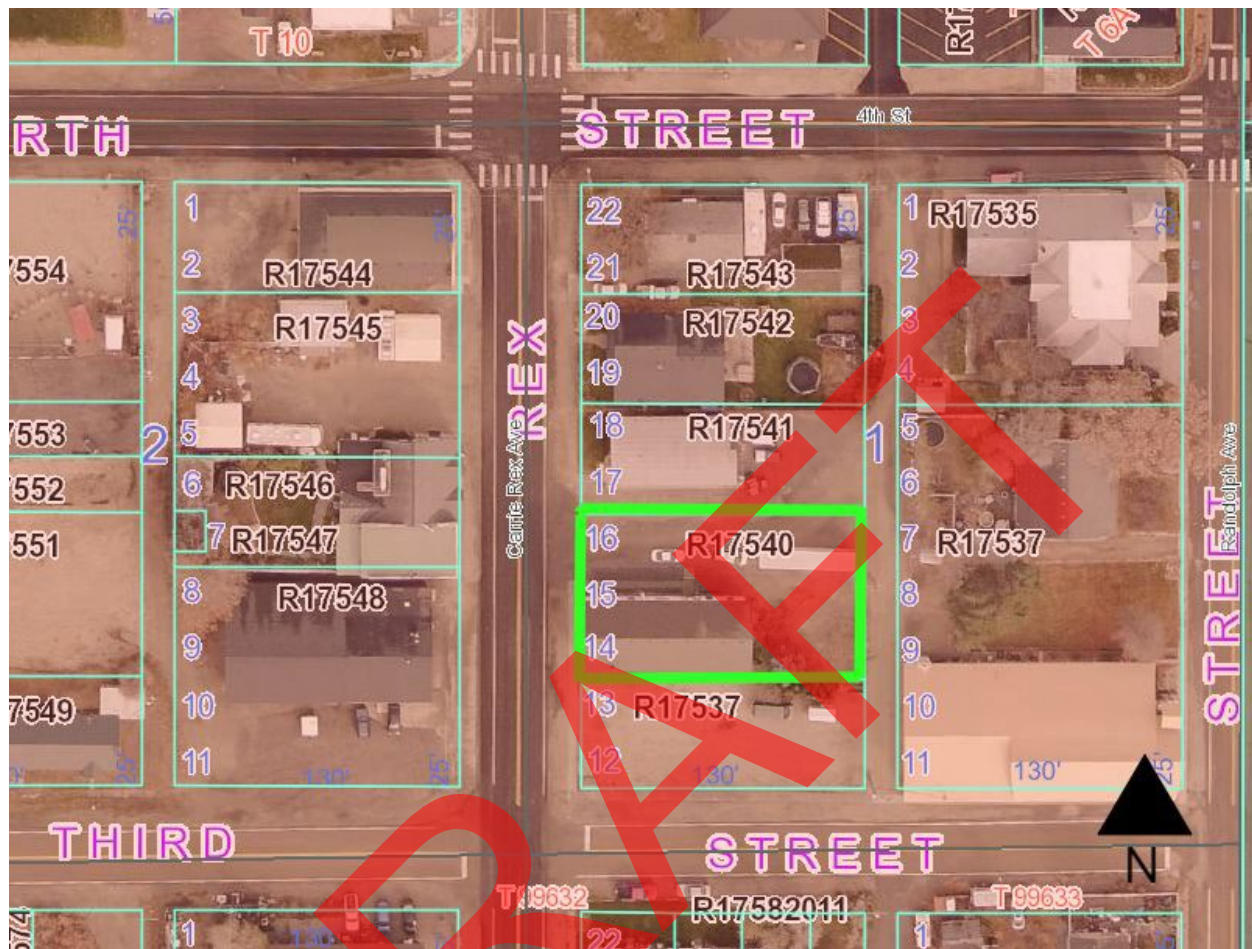
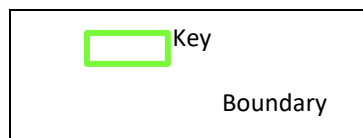


Figure 3. Melba I.O.O.F. Hall Property Boundary
UTM: 11/538094/4802584
Canyon County Assessor's Interactive Map
<https://rb.gy/l8q30u>



Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall
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Figure 4 – Exterior Photo Key

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall
Name of Property

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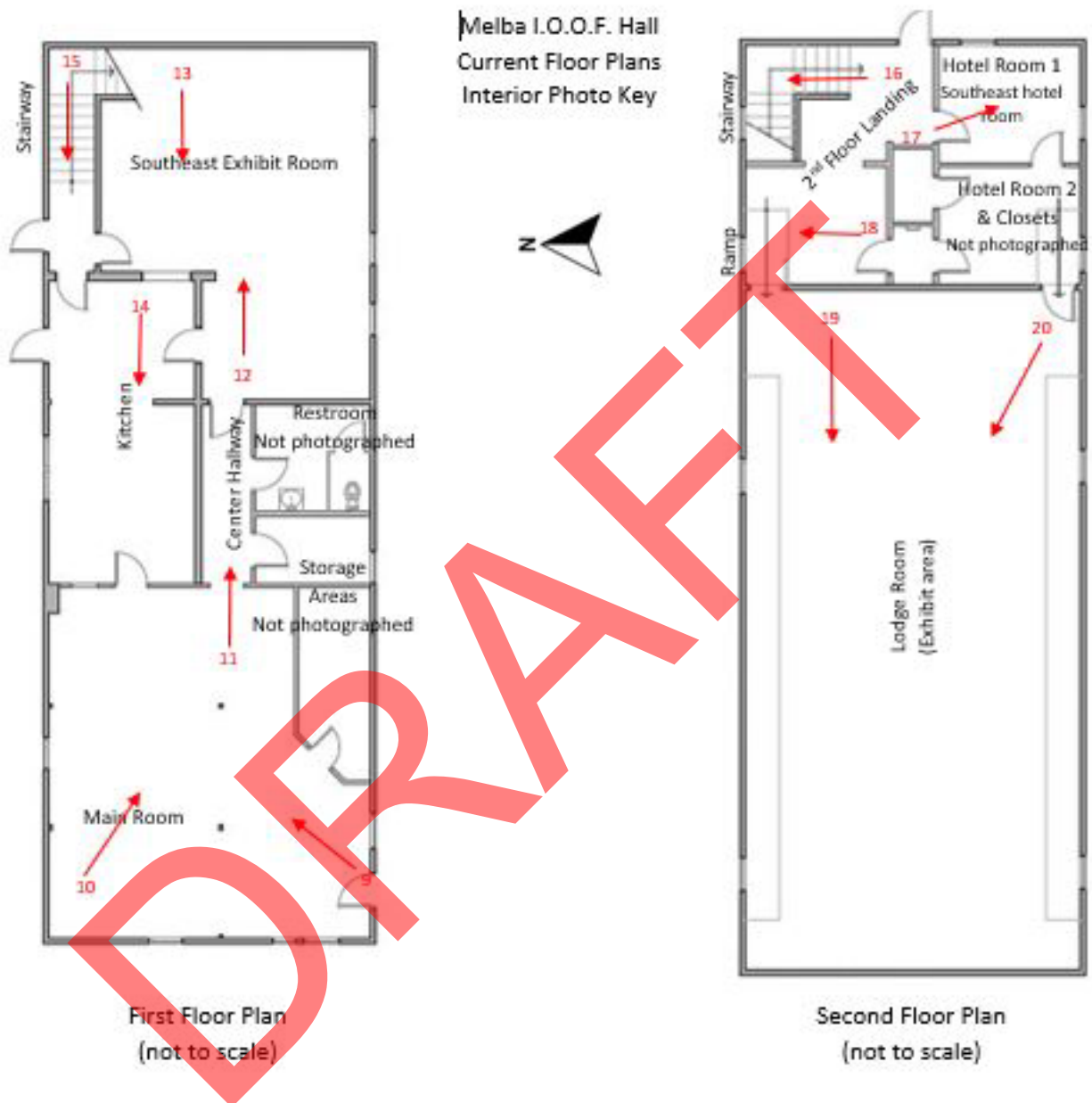


Figure 5. Interior Photo Key

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall
Name of Property

Canyon, Idaho
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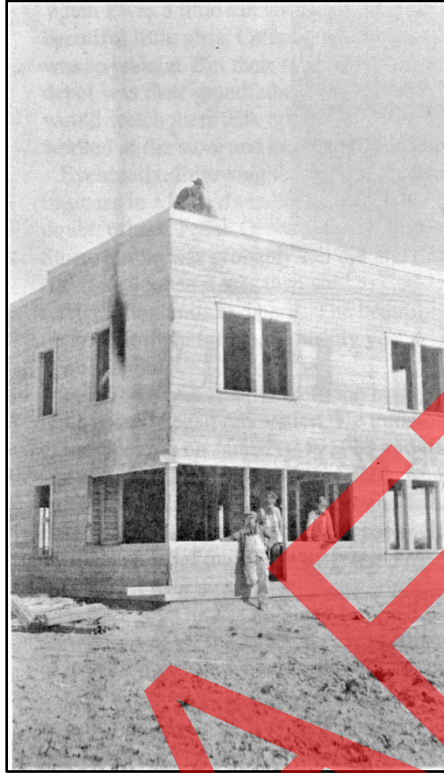


Figure 6. Gardner Hotel under construction, 1919.



Figure 7. Gardner Hotel addition construction, 1922.

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall
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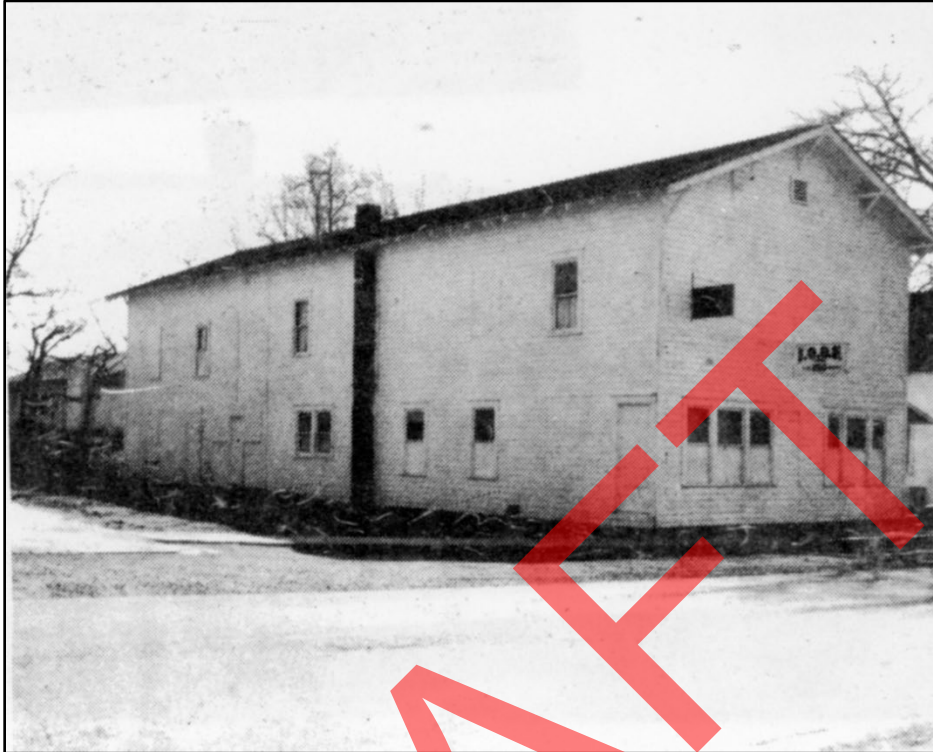


Figure 8. I.O.O.F. Hall circa 1970s after windows had been covered.



Figure 9. Aerial view of Melba, c1945. The I.O.O.F. Hall is number 3, located on the left, just below number 1, the Friends Church and to the left of number 4, the LDS Church building.

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall
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Photograph 1 Façade (west elevation), camera facing east.



Photograph 2 Façade and south elevation, camera facing northeast.

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall
Name of Property

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Photograph 3 North elevation (left) and façade (right), camera facing southeast.



Photograph 4 North elevation, camera facing southeast.

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall
Name of Property

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Photograph 5 East (left) and north (right) elevations, camera facing southwest.



Photograph 6 East elevation, camera facing west.

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall
Name of Property

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Photograph 7 South elevation, camera facing northwest.



Photograph 8 Façade (left) and south elevations, view looking northeast.

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall
Name of Property

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Photograph 9 Interior, first floor, main room, camera facing northeast.



Photograph 10 Interior, first floor, main room, camera facing southeast.

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall
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Photograph 11 Interior, first floor, center hallway, camera facing east.



Photograph 12 Interior, first floor, southeast exhibit room, camera facing east.

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall
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Photograph 13 First floor, southeast exhibit room, camera facing west.



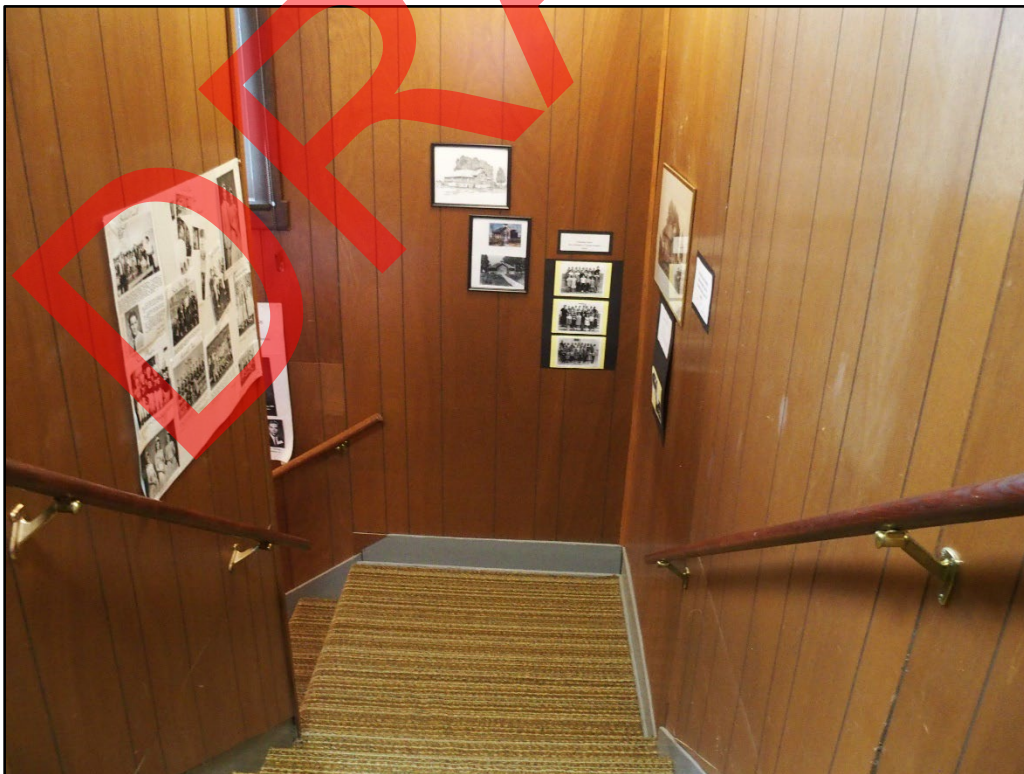
Photograph 14, Interior, first floor, kitchen, camera facing west.

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall
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Photograph 15 Interior, stairway from first landing, camera facing west.



Photograph 16 Interior, stairway from second floor, camera facing north.

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall
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Photograph 17 Interior, second floor, southeast hotel room, camera facing southeast.

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall
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Photograph 18 Interior, second floor, ramp to exhibit area, camera facing north.



Photograph 19 Interior, second floor, exhibit area, camera facing west.

Melba I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall
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Photograph 20 Interior, second floor, exhibit area, camera facing northwest.