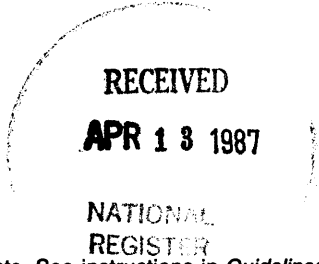


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Murray Masonic Hall  
other names/site number 011773

### 2. Location

street & number Main Street between 2nd and 3rd n/a not for publication  
city, town Murray n/a vicinity  
state Idaho code ID county Shoshone code 079 zip code 83874

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		_____	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for 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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Louise J. Seever, Deputy SAFO 3/26/87  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Idaho State Historical Society Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. William B. Bushong 5/19/87  
 See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_  
 determined not eligible for the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
 removed from the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

social \_\_\_\_\_  
commerce \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

social \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_ wood \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_ wood \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_ metal \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Murray is located in the northern part of the rich Coeur d'Alene mining region of North Idaho. The small town sits in a narrow valley drained by Prichard Creek, with steep wooded mountains rising to the north and south. The creek has been heavily dredged for several miles around the town and large piles of tailings form a prominent part of the local landscape. Most of the buildings line the one main road which runs east-west through town. A number of them date from the same boom period as the Murray Masonic Hall, including the large frame structure next door. Many of the older buildings have disappeared over time, however, leaving large gaps of vacant lots along the once busy street.

The two-and-a-half story frame Masonic hall sits on the south side of Main Street, just east of the Bedroom Gold Mine Bar. The two buildings are separated by about three feet and are fronted by a wide board walkway. The lodge building is rectangular, measuring 24 x 36 feet. The frame walls utilize 2 x 6 studs on the first story and 2 x 4 studs above. The building was originally sheathed with boards and battens on both the side and rear walls but these remain only on the west wall and rear gable. The original boards were removed from the east wall and lower rear in about 1957 or 1958 and turned horizontally in an effort to give the building more stability. The lodge is topped with a gable roof with no overhang at the rear and very narrow eaves along the sides. Metal roofing has replaced the original wooden shakes.

The front wall of the Masonic hall looks much as it did over 100 years ago. The first story is divided into four uneven bays by three narrow pilasters with grooved designs. Two plain wooden pilasters with simple capitals flank the lower facade and four curvilinear wooden brackets support the narrow pent roof above the first story. The narrow left bay held the doorway leading to the second floor meeting room. This entry is now boarded over, but the two-paned transom remains. Two glazed bays, each with six large glass panes above a wooden panel, flank the main entrance. The original storefront door and sidelights have been replaced with a modern door and plywood panels, but the two-paned transom remains.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture  
social history

Period of Significance

ca. 1884-1886

Significant Dates

ca. 1884

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Murray Masonic Hall is significant under criterion "a" for its association with a fraternal order important in the early social life of Idaho's late nineteenth-century mining towns. The Ancient and Accepted Order of Freemasons was often one of the first organizations established in Idaho's late nineteenth century towns, providing a network for the highly-mobile, predominantly male mining population. The building is significant under criterion "c" as an excellent example of the Italianate style. Surviving examples of the Italianate style are rare in Idaho. The Murray Masonic Hall is the only building in the Idaho Historic Sites Inventory that represents the use of Italianate features in a institutional/commercial frame building (sometimes called "False Front Pioneer" Italianate).

The Murray Masonic Hall was constructed during the period 1884-1886, soon after the town was formed as a mining community in the Coeur d'Alene District. A gold rush to the Murray-Eagle area of the district occurred in 1883-1884, bringing a population of about 1500 into the town by 1885. Like other Idaho mining towns, Murray acquired a Masonic lodge during its first few years. In addition to the Masonic rituals, lodges provided a number of amenities to the miners and businessmen in these towns, including a place for dances and other social events, Masonic funerals, mutual support in financial crises, and a sense of fellowship among members. Although the Masonic lodges were not active in politics, many prominent Masons were elected to state and local offices. Historians of Masonry suggest that the lodge provided a social network helpful to these local politicians. Masonic halls were often among the first, most substantial institutional/commercial buildings in Idaho's late nineteenth century towns. Halls were built of substantial materials, if possible, and were designed in the formal styles of their day. In addition to housing a Masonic temple (usually on the second story), Masonic halls were located in commercial areas and provided first-story commercial space that was leased to local merchants. Early Masonic lodges in Idaho were established in Lewiston, Idaho City and other Boise Basin towns, Florence, Mount Idaho, Silver City and other Owyhee mining towns, and Murray. The Idaho Historic Sites Inventory records fifteen extant Masonic halls dating from 1865 through

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Aschenbrenner, Lester. "Idaho Masonic History." n.p., n.d. In the collection of the Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho.

Clark, Rosalind. Oregon Style; Architecture from 1840 to the 1950s. Portland, Oregon: Professional Book Center, Inc., 1983.

Day, Henry L. "Mining Highlights of the Coeur d'Alene District." Idaho Yesterdays 7, no. 4, pp. 2-9.

See continuation sheet

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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Idaho Architectural and Historic Sites Inventory

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	1
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5	8	5	9	2	0
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5	2	7	5	2	2	0
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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property includes the Murray Masonic Hall and the property on which it sits: the north half of lots 6 and 7 in block 4.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary for this nomination corresponds to the legally recorded lot parcels that the building occupies.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jennifer Eastman Attebery, State Architectural Historian

organization Idaho State Historical Society date February 17, 1987

street & number 210 West Main St. telephone (208) 334-3861

city or town Boise state Idaho zip code 83702

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The upper facade is symmetrical in design. Four evenly spaced 2/2 double hung sash windows are trimmed with wooden molding shaped to give the appearance of a lintel with a keystone. A smaller single paned window with a segmentally arched lintel is set in the center of the attic gable. The upper facade is sided with milled shiplap with vertical trim boards at the corners. The false front incorporates the gable peak, and five pairs of elaborate curvilinear brackets support the shallow wooden cornice.

On the interior of the Masonic building, the first floor now serves primarily as a storage area. It has seen two major alterations over the years. The first occurred about 1957, when the interior stairway was moved to the outside along the east wall, giving additional space to the first floor. The second change was made more recently when large trusses were installed to provide extra support for the second floor meeting room. This caused the ceiling downstairs to be lowered about four feet.

The most significant part of the interior is the lodge meeting room on the second floor. The room shows very little alteration over its one hundred years of use by the Coeur d'Alene Lodge No. 20. A rich red wool carpet with floral design covers the floor. The wallpaper, with a subdued floral pattern set in vertical bands, is now cracked and peeling and in some spots reveals an earlier wallpaper in a bold geometric pattern. A wide patterned border on the wallpaper encircles the top of the room. The original ceiling material is now covered with varnished tongue and groove boards. A couple of bare light bulbs hang from the ceiling to illuminate the room, but the original kerosene wall lamps with elaborate metal hangers remain and are used on special occasions. A slightly raised platform for seating runs along both side walls and a simple three-step dais for the Worshipful Master's station is set at the north end of the room. The station is flanked by two free-standing Corinthian columns on pedestal bases. Other Masonic symbols and insignia are seen in decorations around the walls.

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1910. Five of these buildings can be identified as late nineteenth century. The Murray Masonic Hall clearly fits the pattern of Masonic hall architecture. By local standards, it was a substantial and stylistically elaborate building. It provided a first story commercial storefront on the main street of Murray, and it has a well-preserved second-floor Masonic temple that is still in use.

Because Idaho settlement occurred late in the popularity of the Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Italianate styles, those styles are relatively rare in Idaho architecture. Examples tend to be modest frame renditions found principally in the late nineteenth century mining towns and Mormon villages of 1860 through the 1880s. Although many such buildings are documented in the photography of that period, mining town architecture was and is a very fragile resource and few examples survive to represent Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Italianate style mining town buildings. In the Idaho Historic Sites Inventory the Italianate style is represented by one institutional/commercial building--the Murray Masonic Hall--and by two frame houses in Bellevue, one brick house in Weiser, and several southeast Idaho central hall houses with Italianate bay windows or porches. The Murray Masonic Hall provides an excellent and well-preserved example of the Italianate style in frame construction. The building's false front is typical of Idaho buildings no longer extant and of the slightly earlier buildings of the Willamette Valley, Oregon. The false front remains essentially intact: On the first story two doors and sidelights have been removed, but the remainder of the storefront is intact. The entirety of the second story facade is intact. The major alteration to the building--rearrangement of siding on half of the rear wall and the entire east side wall--affects the building's integrity to some degree but is considerably mitigated by the excellent integrity of the building's front wall and second floor interior and by its rarity in the context of Idaho architecture.

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Derig, Betty. "Bullionaire Society." Idaho Yesterdays 1, no. 4,  
pp. 7-10.

Dumenil, Lynn. Freemasonry and American Culture; 1880-1930.  
Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1984.

Idaho Historic Sites Inventory, Site 011773. Idaho State  
Historical Society, Boise, Idaho.





Murray Masonic Hall

Murray, Idaho

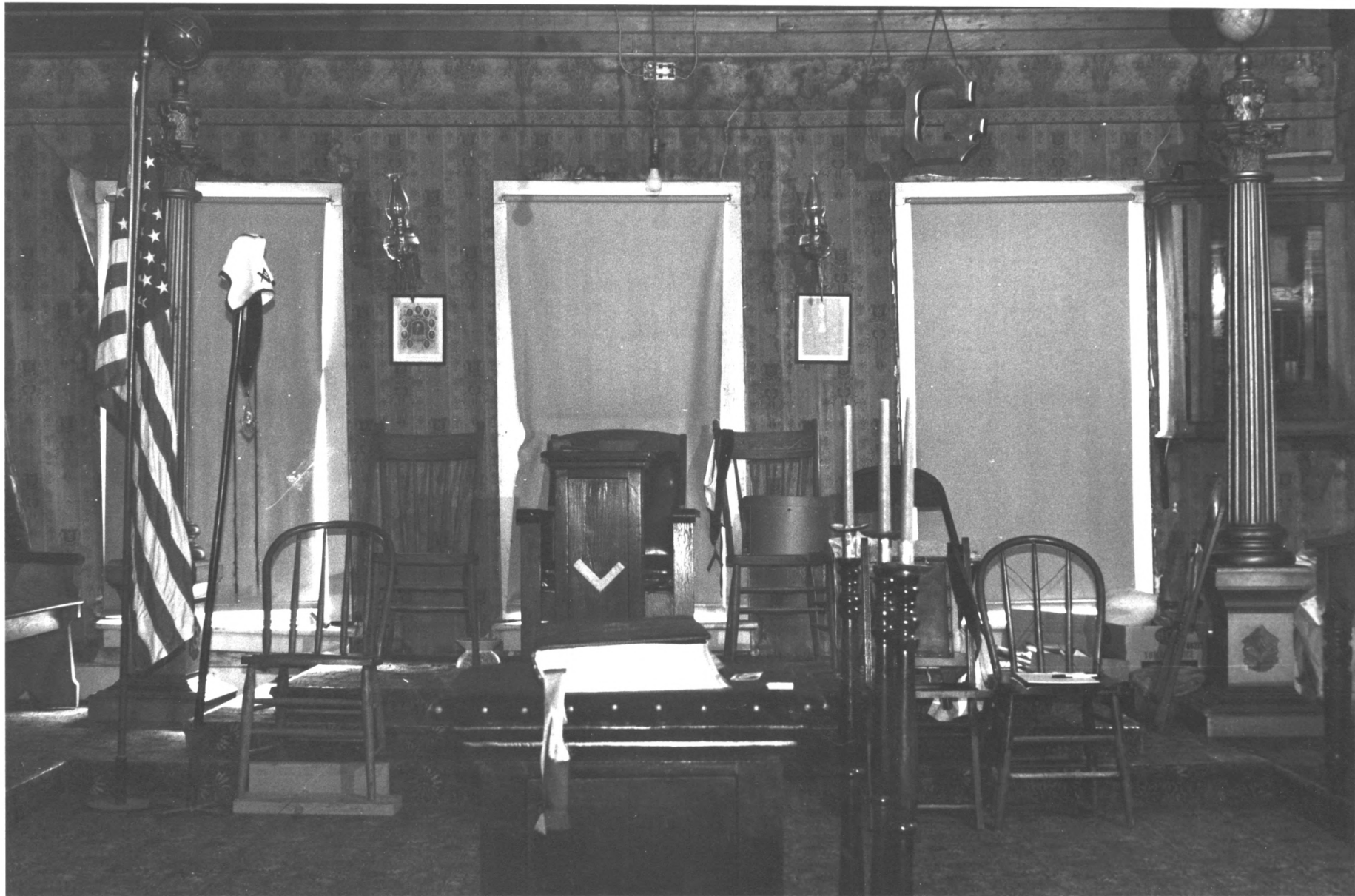
photograph by Nancy Renk

24 July 1986

negative on file at Idaho State  
Historical Society

view from NW

photograph 1 of 2



Murray Masonic Hall

Murray, Idaho

photograph by Nancy Renk

24 July 1986

negative on file at

Idaho State Historical Society

view of interior second floor, from S

photograph 2 of 2