

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

**NATIONAL
REGISTER**

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 Masonic Lodge
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 120 - 136 East Broadway Avenue n/a not for publication
city, town Missoula n/a vicinity
state Montana code 030 county Missoula code 063 zip code 59802

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	<u>1</u>	_____ objects
			_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historical Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940
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.

Signature of certifying official *Manville Sheriff* Date 3-17-90
State or Federal agency and bureau MT SHPO

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.
 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:) _____

**Entered in the
National Register**
Andrew Byers 4/30/90
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Fraternal lodge/commerce

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Fraternal lodge/commerce

7. DescriptionArchitectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Beaux Arts

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick, terra cotta

roof asphalt

other glass block

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Masonic Lodge is a three-story brick and terra cotta Beaux Arts commercial building with seven front second- and third-story bays separated by brick pilasters, an elaborate, crested, a terra cotta cornice, terra cotta tile belt course separating upper two floors from the first floor. The storefront area consists largely of metal frame plate glass windows and two recessed entryways, both with anodized, metal frame plate glass doors with transom windows and one recessed entryway framed by terra cotta tile, also with anodized metal frame door and flanking and upper windows. The building is located on the north side of East Broadway Avenue in the central business district, in an area of town that has lost some of its historic fabric due to remodeling and the construction of new buildings and parking lots.

The terra cotta cornice of the building is large, elaborately detailed with ornamental scrolled brackets that extend about four feet down the upper level pilasters that divide the bays. Terra cotta globe finials are regularly placed atop the cornice and run along the roof line. Double layered dentilation runs just under the cornice. The frieze consists of horizontal relief panels, each flanked by scrolled ornamentation between each large, vertical bracket. The Masonic shield is located at the center of the frieze with elaborate, scrolled brackets located under it. "Masonic Temple" is inset in the frieze on each side of the shield. The lower part of the frieze features projecting, molded terra cotta tiles. The two end bays of the upper two levels project out about one foot from the facade of the building and feature two-story-high arched second- and third-story window insets. The third-story windows in these bays are wood frame arched with a fan light on top and square, fixed windows on the bottom. Second story windows are wood frame, double hung. The pilasters have terra cotta tile capitals and plinths. The third floor windows in the five central bays have square wood frames with horizontal lights and three ribbon, double-hung, wood frame windows with narrow side windows. The second-story windows have been filled with glass blocks.

The lower level is separated from the upper levels by a terra cotta tile belt course and metal framed glass panels. A large, flat, rectangular canopy covering the street level shops is anchored to the

 See continuation sheet

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facade of the building by large metal rods. The street level has granite panels with flanking brick pilasters, which also flank the west side entryway.

The west side, upper level tripart windows are composed of a central large wood frame, double-hung, one-over-one windows flanked by pairs of narrower double hung units and are finished with transom lights above. Some street level windows have been filled in with bricks. The rear of the building has a brick chimney, and the first and second story windows are wood frame, double-hung, one-over-one and nine-over-one units. Five large windows on the second story have been filled in with glass block.

The second and third stories have excellent integrity with the single exception of the glass block window infill on the second level. The first floor has lost some integrity of design and materials as a result of remodeling in 1959, which include the addition of anodized metal frame windows and doors. The remodeling is mitigated by the scale of the upper two floors which reduces the visual importance of the remodeled first floor. The terra cotta framing of and hood over the single door at the west end of the front facade remains in place. The west side and the rear of the building possess excellent integrity of design and materials.

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____

Commerce _____

Period of Significance

1909-1940 _____

Significant Dates

1909 _____

Cultural Affiliation

n/a _____

Significant Person

n/a _____

Architect/Builder

Link and Haire _____

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

The Masonic Lodge building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. It is the best example of institutional Beaux Arts architecture in Missoula. It was built during Missoula's second major post-railroad economic boom and is representative of the confidence and optimism of that period. The building is distinguished by its scale, symmetry and classical styling, the elaborate detailing on the cornice and frieze, the extensive use of terra cotta, the two-story arched side bays, with arched, fan-shaped windows, and two-story brick pilasters, with terra cotta tile capitals and plinths. The building's scale and location in the central business district, along with the quality of its design, materials and workmanship make it a significant and pivotal building in Missoula's downtown. It is also significant as a commercial building because of its association with Hugh Forbis, being the location of Montana Power Company offices between the 1920s and 1970s, and because of the extent to which the building symbolizes the sense of boom and optimism that characterized the city in the 1910s.

This building was constructed in 1909, when the property was owned by Hugh Forbis (1901). Subsequent owners included Hazel Forbis (1916), Forbis Estate (1925), and C. L. and Josephine Forbis (1928). The Masonic Temple Association purchased the property in 1954. Hugh T. Forbis was born in Butte, Montana, in 1886 and graduated from the University of Montana in 1911. He organized the Forbis-Toole Company, with Forbis as president, J. H. Toole as vice-president, and A. E. Drew as secretary-president. It was primarily an investment company that handled farm loans, mortgages, and irrigation bonds.

The building was designed by Link and Haire, Montana's most prolific early twentieth century architectural firm. When constructed, the building was the Masonic Lodge, and had lodge rooms on the third floor and club rooms and billiard rooms on the second and ground floors. The

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back portion of the building is also shown having four floors. Commercial businesses, offices, and even a commercial business college have historically occupied this building. Montana Power Company occupied the building, beginning in the 1920s. The lower portion of the facade was remodeled in 1959.

9. Major Bibliographical References

McDonald, James, and Gary Williams, Missoula Historical Resource Survey. Missoula: Porky Press, 1980.

Stout, Tom. Montana: Its Story and Biography. 3 vols. Chicago and New York: American Historical Society, 1921.

McLeod, Paul. "Significant Architecture of Downtown Missoula, Montana," unpublished brochure, n.d.

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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

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

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

C.P. Higgins Addition, Block C, Lots 17-18.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the city lots upon which the historic building was erected.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William A. Babcock, Jr., Missoula Historic Preservation Officer

organization City of Missoula date August 1989

street & number 201 West Spruce St. telephone 406/721-4700 ext 250

city or town Missoula state Montana zip code 59802