

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ironton Lodge Hall

other name/site number Star of the West Lodge, No. 133, A. F. & A. M. Building; Iron Lodge No. 107, I.O.O.F.

2. Location

street & town 133 N. Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Ironton N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Iron code 093 zip code 63650

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark A. Miles Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date FEBRUARY 26, 2013

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

- 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:) _____

Ironton Lodge Hall
Name of Property

Iron County, MO
County and State

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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1873-1964

Significant Dates

1873

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Forester, C. W.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 Name of repository: _____

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Ironton Lodge Hall
Name of Property

Iron County, MO
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 7/0/9/4/6/0 4/1/6/3/9/5/0
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Property Tax No.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karen Baxter & Tim Maloney

organization Karen Bode Baxter, Preservation Specialist date August 30, 2012

street & number 5811 Delor Street telephone 314-353-0593

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63109

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name/title Brian & Emily Parker/Oddfellows Iron Restoration, L.L.C.

street & number 102 E. Russell Street telephone 573-546-7819

city or town Ironton state MO zip code 63650

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications 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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Ironton Lodge Hall
Iron County, MO

SUMMARY

Built by C. W. Forster in 1873, the Ironton Lodge Hall at 133 N. Main Street in Ironton, Missouri, is a three-story (plus basement) rectangular brick building with Italianate and Greek Revival affinities. Located at the southeast corner of Madison and Main Streets, the twenty-nine by fifty-seven foot building has a raking Greek Revival cornice with a broken pediment (cornice returns) on its primary west façade. Designed to be freestanding on its two lots and to serve primarily as a meeting place for fraternal lodges, the building has no “low budget” or party wall elevation. All four corners are elaborated with brickwork quoins which emphasize the building’s strong verticality. Forty recessed, symmetrically arranged four-over-four windows with round brickwork arches and limestone lug sills are a dominant feature. Five windows are “blind” including three at the west end of the south elevation where an interior stairwell is located. The building’s monochromatic red bricks are laid in a five-course common bond. Except for the replacement of a cast iron storefront with a new brick wall containing openings for three doors and a window, the building is in relatively pristine condition inside and out, suffering mainly from deferred maintenance. The ground slopes downhill toward the rear at the northeast corner, progressively exposing more of the building’s native stone foundation. Other than the primary façade which abuts the public sidewalk along Main Street, the building is surrounded by a grass lawn extending north to Madison Street and paved parking areas to the south and east. The Ironton Lodge Hall is two blocks north of the Iron County Courthouse along what was historically the main north-south commercial corridor for the community, which is nestled in hill country and surrounded by portions of the Mark Twain National Forest.

Paralleling Main Street three blocks to the east of the Ironton Lodge Hall is Missouri Highway 21. Tracks of the Missouri Pacific Railroad (originally the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad) follow the east side of Highway 21. The commercial businesses of Ironton have always been scattered along the eight blocks of Main Street which, basically, extends the length of the community, although most were historically concentrated in the three blocks of Main Street north and in the intersecting block on the south side south of the courthouse. Like the Ironton Lodge Hall, most of the business houses abut the public sidewalk and many are freestanding buildings, except for those in the block directly across from the courthouse where they are closely spaced. Residential properties are intermixed north of the Ironton Lodge Hall and on surrounding blocks.

EXTERIOR FEATURES

Above a modern storefront, the primary (west) elevation contains four tall, closely spaced double-hung wood sash windows on both the second and third floors. These original windows are set within compound round arched brick openings with simple limestone sills. The four-over-four, round arched, doublehung, wood sashed windows are painted white, as is the cornice and other exterior elements that are made of wood. The primary façade retains signage from its past as a Masonic lodge (Star of the West Lodge No. 133) in the form of a small square stone with the Masonic symbol centered between the second and third floors of the primary façade. The

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building was also used as a lodge by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Iron Lodge No. 107 but all that remains is a faint ghost image (the letters IOOF) within the front pediment's frieze. The organization's three-chain link symbol is no longer visible. Both were made of white painted wood by John Albert.

Historic photographs (see Figures 4 and 5) indicate that the first floor was originally spanned by a cast iron system between the quoined corner piers. The cast iron has been removed with the exception of a floorplate. The storefront was divided into four nearly equal parts with display windows alternating with the south end entry to the lodge hall's paired doorway and the recessed storefront entry. As depicted in these historic photos (and also indicated by the only four available Sanborn maps published 1886 through 1914), originally there was a canvas awning spanning the three bays that constituted the storefront, but very quickly this awning was replaced with a wood framed awning spanning the entire façade that had a corrugated shed roof supported by decorative knee braces and fretwork detailing across the front. The awning and the original storefront framing have either been removed or encapsulated within the present polychromatic brick veneer, which wraps over the first floor quoining and is capped by a simple concrete belt course. The new storefront was added prior to the 1980 historic survey and has four pierced openings, three of which are simple aluminum framed commercial doors. The other opening is an aluminum framed plate glass window.

The side elevations are nearly identical, both having a heavy cornices and four bays of windows. The cornices appear to have incorporated a built-in gutter system originally, given the downspout shown in the historic photographs, but that has since been roofed over. The four-over-four round arched windows are treated exactly like those on the façade with compound brick arched openings and limestone sills. However, the front bay windows on the south elevation are actually blind windows with brick, rather than windows, clearly shown on the historic photograph as original to the building. On the north side, there are two blind windows, one at each end of the first floor. The only other difference between the two elevations is that the north side has more of the native stone foundation exposed, as the land slopes downhill toward the rear. The historic photographs seem to indicate that the grading has changed on the south side where basement windows were originally visible in the stone foundation.

On the rear (east elevation), the gable end forms a parapet, capped by simple clay tiles but the cornices on the sides return on the rear, like the broken pediment on the façade, and there are brick quoins at each corner. The rear is only divided into three bays with the same four-over-four round arched windows on all three levels, but these windows have simple brick lintels and stone sills—no compound arched openings. In the center bay of the first floor there is a brick segmental arched doorway with a two-light transom and four panel wood door, which retains its original paneled enframing on the recessed entrance. Photos in the SHPO files show there was a simple flat or shed roof enclosure around this door that incorporated internally a set of steps on the open south side. The basement is entered through a bulkhead under the north window.

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Ironton Lodge Hall
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INTERIOR FEATURES

On the interior, all three floors were, and still are, primarily open floor plates except for the historic walls around the stair vestibule at the southwest corner on each floor and the historic partition separating the foyer (spanning the front bay) for both lodge halls on the second and third floors. The first floor was used historically for a variety of purposes, either as commercial space or offices and the patches in the original wood flooring on the first floor indicate that historically there were a variety of small partitions, probably changing dependent on tenant needs. The second and third floors were used as lodge hall rooms that span the entire space except for the foyer extending across the front bay; the Masons were on the third floor until the 1990s and the Odd Fellows were on the second floor until the 1920s. Recently, there have been some drywall partitions added (and not completely finished) on the first floor and on the third floor in the front bay to create bathrooms.

All floors retain most of their original plaster walls, and the original tongue-and-groove wood floors and the second and third floors retain the original wood trim. Both the second and third floors retain the narrow, one step risers around the perimeter of the lodge rooms (north, south and east ends). They also retain their original ceiling heights, although the first and second floor ceilings have been overlaid with drywall. The third floor still has its original beadboard ceiling and even a couple of what appear to be early pendant electric lights. The first floor has simple cast iron columns with flared capitals supporting a wood beam down the middle of the room. Although the windows are round arched and the rear doorway has a segmental arched transom outside, the interior trim around these openings is rectangular. On the first floor, the trim is replacement trim with simple bullseye corner blocks, but on the upper two floors it is the original simple square edge trim. Baseboards are generally simple, tall flat boards but the stair hall has a tiered, three member baseboard. Most of the second floor windows have interior shutters (which are later replacements, probably added after the Odd Fellows quit using the building); some are louvered, but windows in the stair landings have what appear to be earlier wood paneled shutters.

At the southwest corner is the quarter-flight, open staircase leading up to the lodge rooms on the second and third floor. At the first floor it has an octagon newel post where the railing curves outward slightly at the base of the stairs. The railing has simple turned balusters and a continuous handrail up to the third floor where it returns to the wall. On each level the stair is located within a small enclosed vestibule with a doorway opening to the north into the main rooms. In the ceiling at the top of the stairs is the attic access.

The basement has the native stone foundation walls and a dirt floor and still retains the basement window openings, which have been covered over on the exterior. It has large brick piers below each of the first floor columns down the center of the building. The basement was apparently dug by Thomas Johnson, unusual enough in Ironton that it was noted along with the general contractor's name (C. W. Forster) in newspapers at the time (unearthed in research completed by Edward Boyd for a 1990 Missouri Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form).

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**Ironton Lodge Hall
Iron County, MO**

ALTERATIONS AND INTEGRITY ISSUES

Except for the regrettable loss of the first floor storefront and wood awning, which has a new brick wall and windows on the first floor, the exterior of this building is essentially unaltered. The storefront apparently survived into the 1970s when the first floor brick wall was built. The awning structure may have been removed during the period of significance, since it was a wooden structure, but it was intact in 1914 when the last fire insurance map was updated. Preliminary discovery work completed recently by Marion Smith, architect and Bill Forsyth, structural engineer seem to indicate that the cast iron columns are still intact sandwiched between the brick wall and the drywall added on the interior.

The building retains all of its original windows and even the original rear door and transom as well as the brick quoining and raked cornice. The signage has changed with the stone Masonic symbol replacing the Odd Fellows initials and symbol, probably when the ownership switched in the 1920s. There were originally two chimneys on the south side (that served heating stoves that were still intact when the 1990 survey photos were taken); these pierced through the roof, but one appears to have been eliminated completely and the other shortened although the internal flues are still intact. The only other alterations to the exterior are the missing rear enclosure at the doorway and the replacement of the cellar door on the rear. Generally the exterior is suffering mostly from poor maintenance with some small areas on the rear wall that are smeared with cement and much of the stone foundation seems to be missing its mortar. Even on the interior most of the original features remain intact, wood floors, walls, trim, and the staircase. The only recent interior alterations seem to be the addition of some small partitions at the front of the building, the drywall wall across the first floor façade wall and drywall overlaying the ceilings.

Despite these alterations, this was originally and is still the tallest nineteenth century brick building in town (three stories to the courthouse's two stories) and it still retains its prominence in the streetscape, located at a major intersection on Main Street (where traffic enters the downtown from Highway 21) and it is still one of the most readily identifiable historic buildings within the town's commercial district. It retains its distinctive stylistic features—the Greek Revival elements, especially the heavy cornice and broken pediment as well as its Italianate (original) round arched windows and brick lintels. It was obviously designed to reflect the image of permanence and solidarity that the local fraternal organizations were trying to project for their growing community in the late nineteenth century and its stately design continues to be a major landmark in the community.

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**Ironton Lodge Hall
Iron County, MO**

SUMMARY

The Ironton Lodge Hall at 133 North Main Street in Ironton, Missouri, is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Social History and Architecture. Built by a local contractor, C. W. Forster for \$8,000 in 1873,¹ the three-story, red brick building initially housed local chapters of both the Masons (Star of the West Lodge No. 133, A.F. and A.M. originally housed on the second floor) and the International Order of Odd Fellows (Iron Lodge No. 107, on the third floor). For several decades both the women's organization for the Odd Fellows, the Rebekahs, and Chapter 349 of the Order of the Eastern Star (the Masonic women's group) met in the building and at some point the Masons in Ironton also had a boy's chapter (Demolay's Hall) and a girl's chapter (Job's Daughters) which also held meetings in the building.² In addition to the use of its upper floors by fraternal organizations whose goals included the affirmation of traditional values and whose activities included social and civic service projects, the building served as a meeting place for the community throughout its history and the lower level at various times housed a such commercial activities as John M. Moore's dry goods and clothing store, an electrical light company, a doctor's offices and the Ironton Post Office.³ Architecturally, the prestigious, free-standing building displays both Greek Revival and Italianate elements and features original round arched windows on all four elevations. All four corners are quoined, enhancing the building's strong verticality and bricklike ruggedness. Highly intact, the building is missing its original cast iron storefront but otherwise substantially reflects its appearance during the decades when many of Ironton's most upstanding citizens crossed its threshold, planned charitable deeds and participated in secret ceremonies and rituals. The period of significance extends from the building's construction in 1873 though 1964, when the Odd Fellows' lease was purchased by the Masons,⁴ officially ending the tenure of one of the two original fraternal tenants. The Masons continued using the building at least through 1991.

BUILDING HISTORY

The cornerstone for the Ironton Lodge Hall was laid on August 25, 1873 and the building officially opened with a grand ball on January 8, 1874. The Ironton Lodge Hall was constructed

¹ Jefferson City, MO, State Historic Preservation Office, County Files Iron, "Folder Ironton," Edward Boyd, Star of the West Lodge, "Star of the west Lodge #133 A. F. A. M.," State Historic Preservation Office Architectural/Historic Inventory Form, November, 1990; Jefferson City, MO, State Historic Preservation Office, County Files Iron, "Folder Ironton," Edward Boyd, Star of the West Lodge, "Letter, Re: Mason's Hall Ironton, Iron County, Missouri," 2 November, 1990.

² Ibid; Iron County Historical Society, *Past and Present: A History of Iron County, Missouri 1857-1994, Vol. 1*, (Marceline, MO: Heritage House Publishing, 1994) 102, 110; Iron County Historical Society, *Iron County Brought into Focus*, (Ironton, MO: Iron County Historical Society, 1976) 101.

³ Edward Boyd, Star of the West Lodge, "Star of the west Lodge #133 A. F. A. M.," Rolla, Missouri, Western Historical Manuscript Collection, "Freemasons. Star of the West Lodge No. 133 (Ironton, MO) Records, 1849-1962" [Microfilm].

⁴ Ibid; *Past and Present: A History of Iron County, Missouri 1857-1994, Vol. 1*, 102, 110.

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**Ironton Lodge Hall
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by local contractor, C. W. Forster for the Iron Lodge No. 107, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Star of the West Lodge No. 133, A.F. and A.M. for a cost reported in some sources as \$6,000, but reported in the *Iron County Register* as \$8,000. Research completed by Edward Boyd, a member of the Star of the West Lodge, in 1990 for a Missouri Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form not only identified the contractor, but it also found that the cellar had been dug by Thomas Johnson and that John Albert made the white letters and links used to identify the I.O.O.F on the façade above the third floor. Later, the letters A.F. and A.M. were added above the second floor windows, clearly shown in a sketch of the building printed on a Star of the West Lodge receipt although early photographs only show the Odd Fellows signage, probably because their lodge owned the entire building initially. Shadows of I.O.O.F. are still visible on the façade but the Masons had replaced their sign at some point with the Masonic symbol in a small stone plaque at some point. Boyd's research explained that the cornerstone was laid at the base of the stairs inside the building on August 25, 1873 but the stone was dated 1871 since it was relocated from the Mason's previous lodge hall.⁵

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge had formed in 1857 in Arcadia and moved to Ironton in 1858, where a building had been purchased. In 1872, the Odd Fellows lodge sold its first building in Ironton and constructed the new three-story building with plans to have their own lodge on the third floor (which they shared with their women's auxiliary organization, the Rebekahs) while the Masons would occupy the second floor. The first floor was rented out as a source of revenue for the lodge. By 1886, the first year fire insurance maps were available, the first floor was being used by the John M. Moore's dry goods and clothing store, which still occupied the first floor in 1893. Moore's business may pre-date the 1880s since there is one historic photo of the building that is identified as dating from the 1870s and it shows his business in operation on the first floor even at that time. In 1908 the first floor was vacant but by 1914 the Electric Light Company had its offices in the first floor. At times in the 1910s the lower floor was used by the Jobs' Daughters and DeMolay's Hall, the youth organizations for the Masons.

⁵ *Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri*, (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1888, Reprint ed., Cape Girardeau: Ramfire Press, 1964) 456; Center for Ozark Studies, *An Historic and Architectural Resources Survey of Iron County, MO*, (Springfield, MO: Division of the Parks and Historic Preservation Department of Natural Resources, Southwest Missouri State University, 1979-1980) I-43; Committee For the Centennial Anniversary of the Declaration of American Independence in Ironton, July 4 1876, *Historical Summary of Iron County, Missouri July 4th, 1876*, (Ironton, MO: Committee For the Centennial Anniversary of the Declaration of American Independence in Ironton, July 4 1876 Reprint ed., Ironton, MO: Iron County Genealogy Society, Wilma Coffey, 2004) 11; Iron County Historical Society, *Past and Present: A History of Iron County, Missouri 1857-1994, Vol. 1*, (Marceline, MO: Heritage House Publishing, 1994) 110; Edward Boyd, Star of the West Lodge, "Star of the west Lodge #133 A. F. A. M."; Jefferson City, MO, State Historic Preservation Office, County Files Iron, "Folder Ironton," "Star of the West Lodge, No. 133 A. F. & A. M. Check #106;" Edward Boyd, Star of the West Lodge, "Letter, Re: Mason's Hall Ironton, Iron County, Missouri," 2 November, 1990; Jefferson City, MO, State Historic Preservation Office, County Files Iron, "Folder Ironton-Photos," "I. O. O. F./John M. Moore Building," [Photo] c. 1880s.; Jefferson City, MO, State Historic Preservation Office, County Files Iron, "Folder Ironton-Photos," "I. O. O. F./Jno. M. Moore Building," [Photo] c. 1870s.

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**Ironton Lodge Hall
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Starting in 1928 the first floor was leased to the United States Post Office for use as the Ironton Post Office until 1947.⁶

Initially the building was owned by the Odd Fellows, but at some point in the early 1900s, the second floor was sold to the Star of the West Lodge (they were apparently leasing prior to that time) and then in 1920 the Masons bought the entire building from the Odd Fellows, who signed a 99 year lease for the third floor. The Odd Fellows apparently sold the building because of financial difficulties but the sale did not alleviate the difficulties and the Odd Fellows disbanded in the 1920s. In 1964, the Masons purchased the lease back from the Odd Fellows for \$100 in order to clear the title and subsequently continued to use the building through at least 1991.⁷

IRONTON HISTORY

The first European settler in the Arcadia Valley was Ephraim Stout, a Tennessean who constructed a log house in 1805 next to the creek now known as Stout Creek. There was a slow influx of settlers to the area in the following years as iron mines opened in the area. In 1838, Colonel Cyrus Russell and his family purchased a large amount of land locally after moving from New England, finding the towns of Arcadia, Middle Brook, Pilot Knob, and Iron Mountain already formed. Russell and his family pushed for the first post office in the county in 1839, which was established in Arcadia. By 1849 Russell had helped Reverend Jerome C. Barryman found Arcadia High School and over the next ten years the area grew enough in population that plans were developed for a separate (Iron) county formed from parts of Dent, Washington, Wayne, St. Francois, Madison and Reynolds Counties.⁸

⁶ Ibid; Iron County Centennial Association Executive Committee, *Centennial Iron County, 1857-1957, Ironton Missouri May 30-June 2*, (Ironton, MO: Iron County Centennial Association Executive Committee, May 30-June 2, 1957) 41; Secretary of State, "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map-1886," [Website] Available at: http://cdm.sos.mo.gov/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/sanbornmaps&CISOPTR=1823&CISOBOX=1&REC=1, Accessed 8/29/2012; Secretary of State, "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map-1893," [Website] Available at: http://cdm.sos.mo.gov/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=%2Fsanbornmaps&CISOPTR=1826&DMSCALE=12.50000&DMWIDTH=600&DMHEIGHT=600&DMMODE=viewer&DMFULL=0&DMOLDSCALE=1.94502&DMX=0&DMY=0&DMTEXT=&DMTHUMB=1&REC=4&DMROTATE=0&x=108&y=80, Accessed 8/29/2012; Secretary of State, "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map-1908," [Website] Available at: http://cdm.sos.mo.gov/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/sanbornmaps&CISOPTR=1815&CISOBOX=1&REC=13, Accessed 8/29/2012; Secretary of State, "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map-1914," [Website] Available at: http://cdm.sos.mo.gov/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=%2Fsanbornmaps&CISOPTR=1820&DMSCALE=25.00000&DMWIDTH=600&DMHEIGHT=600&DMMODE=viewer&DMFULL=0&DMOLDSCALE=1.94502&DMX=0&DMY=0&DMTEXT=&DMTHUMB=1&REC=18&DMROTATE=0&x=14&y=39, Accessed 8/29/2012; "I. O. O. F./John M. Moore Building," [Photo], c. 1880s; "I. O. O. F./Jno. M. Moore Building," [Photo], c. 1870s.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ *Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri*, 455; *Centennial Iron County, 1857-1957, Ironton Missouri May 30-June 2*, 9; Iron County Historical Society, "History of Iron County," [Website] Available at: <http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~moisch/history.html>, Accessed 6/18/2012; Elias Johnson, Et al., *Ironton, Missouri: A Town Study, 1997*, (Springfield, MO: Department of Geography, Geology, and Planning, Southwest Missouri State

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**Ironton Lodge Hall
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By the late 1850s, H. N. Tong and David Carson had formed a mercantile business near the eastern base of Shepherd Mountain and when they learned that the area was going to become a new county, they bought land and laid out a town that they named Ironton. As Iron County was being organized, an election was held to choose the county seat, with Arcadia, Pilot Knob, Middlebrook and Ironton competing for the seat. Despite Pilot Knob's advantage of having the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad line completed that far by 1857, Tong and Carson's offer proved more attractive by providing alternating Ironton lots to the county to be sold at public auction to raise the money for a courthouse. On September 7, 1857, Ironton was selected as the county seat and the sale of lots raised \$10,600 for the construction of the courthouse, which was completed in 1860. After being selected as the county seat, Ironton began to grow more quickly than the other towns in the Arcadia Valley.⁹

The start of the Civil War disrupted daily life with numerous guerrilla actions as well as the major Battle of Pilot Knob, September 26-28, 1864, which prevented Confederate forces from marching on the armory in St. Louis.¹⁰ After the Civil War, Ironton began to recover and a small building boom started, but even so, most buildings were frame construction, except for the two-story brick courthouse. By 1867, the Presbyterian Church, which had started construction of its building before the war, completed a new church and in the same year a new county jail was completed. Within just a few years, St. Paul's Episcopal Church was built in 1871 and the Baptist Church was completed in 1873. The public school was founded in 1866, using the Baptist Church building for classes until a school building was completed in 1868. Then in 1881 a second public school opened and the Academy of Music opened (destroyed by fire in 1924) after being supported by Ironton stockholders. The next year in 1882, the Ironton Library Association was formed, further contributing to the cultural growth of Ironton. Ironton also had two hotels with the Ironton House and The American Hotel both offering accommodations, as well as hosting dances, dinners and holiday celebrations and by 1896 the Iron County Bank had been constructed.¹¹ By 1883, when the first fire insurance map was published, most of the buildings in town were still frame construction, including the various commercial buildings and the three-story mill; only a few scattered buildings had been built of brick, the courthouse, the school and a few commercial buildings, including the tallest brick building in town, the three-

University, 1997) 6-7; Dorothy Reese, *1976 Bicentennial in Iron County*, (Ironton, MO: The Mountain Echo, 1976) 1/7/1976-1/28/1976.

⁹ Ibid; *Historical Summary of Iron County, Missouri July 4th, 1876*, 3; Johnson, 6-7.

¹⁰ *Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri*, 457; *Centennial Iron County, 1857-1957, Ironton Missouri May 30-June 2*, 27, 31; "History of Iron County" [Website]; Johnson, 6-7; *1976 Bicentennial in Iron County*, 3/3/1976, 3/31/1976, 4/7/1976.

¹¹ *Past and Present: A History of Iron County, Missouri 1857-1994, Vol. 1*, 53; Clarence R. Keathley, *Iron County, Missouri Year by Year*, (Farmington, MO: Scotch Print, 1984) 7-8; *Centennial Iron County, 1857-1957, Ironton Missouri May 30-June 2*, 34; Robert Sidney Douglass, *History of Southeast Missouri: A Narrative Account of its Historical Progress, its People and its Principal Interests*, (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1912, Reprint ed. Cape Girardeau, MO: Ramfire Press, 1961) 296-297.

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story, Ironton Lodge Hall which was finished in the midst of this building boom, in 1873.¹²

Through the end of the nineteenth century, the area continued to grow but by 1900 the iron mines that had been the basis of the local economy were starting to decline and the towns in the area started looking for new streams of revenue. The timber industry continued to thrive, as did the railroads, but otherwise the economy was in decline. The local leaders turned to tourism and tried to attract people of means from St. Louis to build summer homes in the area. The plan worked and there was another small building boom in the first decade of the twentieth century. In addition, Arcadia saw the construction of a religious summer training grounds in 1909. The following year "Baptist Heights" was formed for religious training of Baptists, remaining open until a change in the Baptist conventions saw the training grounds closed. The first telephones were installed by 1903 and the Bank of Ironton opened in 1905. By 1909 Lake Killarney was constructed as an attraction for fisherman and tourists and other resorts later opened. By 1913 the Home for Aged Baptists was opened and by 1926 St. Mary's of the Ozarks Hospital had been opened in Ironton. The Ironton High School was constructed in 1917 and an auditorium was added to the school in 1926.¹³

A few additional one and two story commercial buildings were added during this timeframe, only a few of which were brick, concentrating commercial growth in the block on the south side of the courthouse and along Main Street at the east side of the courthouse, extending three blocks north to the Ironton Lodge Hall. As the county seat, Ironton was already the legal seat of the county, but its growth throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, also made it one of the commercial centers in Iron County. Ironton's growth, like that throughout the country, declined during the Great Depression, but after World War II, the city began to grow again. Besides banks and hotels, Ironton also had a variety of retail stores, including jewelers, furniture stores, groceries, heaters, gift shops, five and dime stores, car dealerships, service stations and all the other retail outlets available in most major towns. Like many small towns throughout the nation, by the early 1960s Ironton was facing a decline in population and its economy, but its long history as the county seat and a commercial center has allowed Ironton to remain a viable community.¹⁴

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS IN MISSOURI AND IRONTON

Masonic Lodges

Freemasonry is the oldest fraternal organization in the world, appearing to have arisen from the stone masons' guilds during the Middle Ages, which is reflected in the rituals, language and

¹² "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map-1886."

¹³ Ibid; *Iron County, Missouri Year by Year*, 10-11; *1976 Bicentennial in Iron County*, 9/1/1976.

¹⁴ *Iron County, Missouri Year by Year*, 13-14; *Centennial Iron County, 1857-1957, Ironton Missouri May 30-June 2*, 45; *Past and Present: A History of Iron County, Missouri 1857-1994, Vol. 1*, 41-42; "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map-1886;" "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map-1893;" "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map-1908;" "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map-1914."

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symbols used by the organization. By 1717, four lodges in London had formed the first Grand Lodge of England and within thirty years, the fraternity spread throughout Europe and the American colonies. It became especially popular in the New World, counting among its most notable early members, men like George Washington, Paul Revere, Benjamin Franklin, and John Hancock. Freemasonry grew dramatically in the United States in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, providing fellowship for its members and opportunities to develop their spiritual character and leadership potential as well as to participate in local civic and charitable causes. During these early years, the lodges focused on assisting widows, orphans and the aged among their membership, often providing the only social security many people knew.¹⁵

The first lodges established in Missouri were actually organized in 1807 in Ste. Genevieve and in 1808 in Saint Louis, during the early days of settlement and before statehood. By 1821, the statewide organization, the Grand Lodge for the State of Missouri of Free and Accepted Ancient Masons, was organized, even though it was not incorporated by the Missouri General Assembly until 1843. Membership in Missouri lodges generally comprised the more influential members of the community. In the early years, local Masonic lodges in Missouri often served as a church on Sunday and a post office or general store during the week. When civic construction projects were identified, whether it was paving, streetlights, or a city park, the masons were involved in the early planning efforts.¹⁶

The first Masonic lodge near Ironton was formed when the Star of the West Lodge was founded in 1849 in Iron Mountain and then moved the same year to Pilot Knob. Among the founders of the Star of the West Lodge were A. Huspeth, who was one of the commissioners appointed to select the county seat of Reynolds County when it was formed, Moses Edmunds, who was one of the first judges in the Iron County Court, and Benjamin Johnson, who had started a school in Jefferson County in the early 1800s. Although there were other founders, namely Reuben Thomas, Charles L. Edmunds, Robert Ferguson, W. H. Thomas, and Albert Reeves, little is known about these men.¹⁷ At the time of its founding, the chapter was the only one south of St. Louis.¹⁸ The lodge lost its charter temporarily (a not-uncommon occurrence during the Civil War when members could not make it to meetings), but a new charter was procured by May of 1862. The lodge then moved to Arcadia until 1863 when the lodge there was plundered by the Union Army. In 1871, the Star of the West lodge moved to Ironton and the Midian Royal Arch Chapter No. 71 was founded, sharing space with the Star of the West Lodge. The new lodge also had a number of notable citizens as members:

¹⁵ The Grand Lodge of Missouri Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, "The Grand Lodge of Missouri Ancient Free and Accepted Masons [Website]," Available at: <http://www.momason.org/beamason.asp>, Accessed on 24 August, 2012.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ *Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri*, 456.

¹⁸ *Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri*, 457.

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- Jacob T. Ake was born in Pennsylvania in 1835 before his father moved family to Pilot Knob in 1856 only to move to Ironton the next year. Ake worked as a tailor prior to the Civil War as well as the deputy of the peace from 1858 until the Civil War. During the war, Ake fought in Company B 31 Missouri and was in the battles of Chicksaw Bayou and Vicksburg. After the war, Ake was a deputy circuit clerk and county clerk from 1865-1871 and was a public administrator from 1871 through 1878 and was county treasurer for five years. Ake was also a member of the Odd Fellows, indicating that the two fraternal organizations shared some of the same members.
- Simon Buford was born in Iron County in 1849 and worked as a county collector after having worked in as a clerk in Belleview for a year and the Pilot Knob Iron Company for five years before going into business for himself. Buford also spent time working in St. Louis for the St. Louis Ore and Steel Company before returning to Ironton, where he was elected county sheriff in 1884 and then county collector in 1886.
- W.C.R. Williams (along with his wife, John Randol and wife, Thomas Clair, Simon and Isaiah Poe, and Charnel Glascock) was a founding member of the first Methodist society west of the Mississippi.
- Besides his membership in the Masons, Lillburn M. Lewis was a merchant in New Madrid following the city's incorporation.
- J. R. McCormick was a surgeon for the 6th Infantry Division during the Civil War, was later made a brigadier general and was elected to congress in 1876.
- Eli D. Ake, who founded the *Ironton Forge* (newspaper).
- Daniel Miller was a contractor who constructed the Butler County Courthouse.

Little is known about the other founding members of the Midian Chapter except that they included J.R. Higdon, A. T. Shepherd, D. F. Martin, J. Grandhomme, H. M. Hutchins, C. K. Miller, W. J. Collett, , Lawrence Ryan, M.K. Havens, Henry Zimmerman, Joel Yancey, J. P. Duley, S. C. Lipscomb, F. Roan, , D. H. Cheeney, B. Shepherd, D. C. Bugg, G. B. Clark, W. C. Thomas, and J. C. Williams.¹⁹ The same year, 1871, both organizations moved to Ironton. The lodges erected a building at an unknown location for \$2,500, which it continued to use until the lodges worked with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows to construct the Ironton Lodge Hall in 1873. By 1894, the two Masonic lodges had consolidated under the charter of the Star of the West Lodge.²⁰

¹⁹ The following information about individual members of the Masons comes from: *Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri*, 1092-1115; *History of Southeast Missouri: A Narrative Account of its Historical Progress, its People and its Principal Interests*, 193, 204, 266, 295, 297, 311, 316, 317, 422-423, 534, 555, 1027.

²⁰ *Centennial Iron County, 1857-1957, Ironton Missouri May 30-June 2*, 41, 43; *Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri*, 456-457; *Past and Present: A History of Iron County, Missouri 1857-1994, Vol. 1*, 110; *Historical Summary of Iron County, Missouri July 4th, 1876*, 11-12; "Freemasons. Star of the West Lodge No. 133

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In addition to the founding members, many businessmen and leaders in the community later joined the lodge:²¹

- ◆ August Block was born in Germany in 1853 and his parents immigrated to New Orleans with him when he was one. The family then took a steamboat to Ste. Genevieve and later moved to Iron Mountain by 1872. Block spent a year working in Arkansas for the railroads before opening a saloon in nearby Graniteville and becoming a member of the Masons and the Odd Fellows.
- ◆ S. E. B. Buford was born in Iron County in 1849 and after working as a clerk for the Pilot Knob Iron Company he spent five years as deputy sheriff before becoming the Iron County Assessor in 1882 and then the County Collector in 1886 and was a member of both the Masons and the Odd Fellows.
- ◆ Phillip P. G. Carter was born in 1838 and spent six years as a judge in Reynolds County but spent most of his adult life running a 165-acre farm outside of Ironton.
- ◆ William A. Edgar was born in Iowa in 1858 and lived there until he was fourteen when his family moved to Iron County and he worked on the family farm until he was twenty. After attending Arcadia College, he went to St. Louis University Law School. When he returned to Ironton he taught for four years before becoming principal of the Ironton Public School and then spent four terms as the Prosecuting Attorney for the county and then became the receiver for the United States Land Office. Edgar was the master of the Masons in 1886.
- ◆ Dr. G. W. Farrar was born in 1830 and moved to the area at 17 to attend Arcadia College, where he was first in his class. He became a professor of dead languages and then went to St. Louis Medical College, where he graduated in 1857 and moved to Ironton where he established his medical practice and was a member of the Democratic executive committee.
- ◆ W. A. Fletcher grew up on a farm in Madison County but after the Civil War he moved to Pilot Knob and then to Ironton, where he was Sherriff from 1880 to 1886 before becoming the city clerk in 1886.
- ◆ W. T. Gay was born in 1848 in Devonshire England and immigrated to New York in 1852 and then moved to the Ironton area in 1861 and started learning blacksmithing and wagon making from his father. When he was old enough he went into business with his brother, forming Gay and Co. while employing 6-7 people.
- ◆ Dr. T. R. Foulding was born in England in 1818 and grew up in London where he went to King's College and then joined the British Navy as an assistant surgeon, where

(Ironton, MO) Records, 1849-1962" [Microfilm].

²¹ *Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri*, 1092-1115; *History of Southeast Missouri*, 193, 204, 266, 295, 297, 311, 316, 317, 422-423, 534, 555, 1027.

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he was wounded in the Battle of Acre in 1840. He then moved to New York, then joined a brother in Milwaukie, then moved to St. Louis before settling in Ironton in 1868 where he practiced medicine and built a hospital near his home on the side of Shepherd Mountain near Ironton.

- ◆ Robert J. Hill was born in Bonne Terre in 1851 and went to the Bellevue Collegiate Institution before starting a 105-acre farm near Ironton. He also served as a county judge for two years.
- ◆ The Honorable A. W. Holloman was born in 1805 in North Carolina and his family moved to "Upper Louisiana" in time to experience the 1812 New Madrid earthquake. In 1820 he started farming and started a saw mill. In 1849 he moved to Arcadia for the sake of his children's education and by 1858 he was elected to the state legislature and then served as a surveyor for the county court in Ironton. He was elected to the General Assembly in 1875 and in 1886 was still serving as a judge.
- ◆ Joseph B. Huff was born in 1838 in Tennessee and by the time he was twenty he had moved to Ironton and started a merchandising business. He later became a clerk in the county offices and after enlisting in the Missouri Militia during the Civil War, he returned to Ironton after the war and became the circuit court clerk and was later appointed county assessors. Huff was also a member of the Odd Fellows.
- ◆ Henry Hutchinson was born in 1829 and worked on the family farm until he was 23 when he started his own farm while working as a hunter and trapper in the winter.
- ◆ Judge John Kemper started a farm at the age of 20 and was later appointed deputy sheriff from 1846 till 1850 when he and H. J. James opened a store in Patterson, Missouri. Kemper formed Company I of the 3rd Regular Missouri State Garrison but left after a year because of health. After the war he started a farm on 260 acres of land near Ironton, which included quartz and lead quarries. He was later a county judge for two years and a justice of the peace for eight years.
- ◆ Calvin Kitchell was born in Indiana in 1823 and moved to Ironton in 1887 where he started a 180 acre farm.
- ◆ James Logan was born in 1833 and was at various times worked in merchandising, carpentry and cabinet making as sidelines to supplement his income from running a 455-acre farm. Logan was also a member of the Odd Fellows.
- ◆ Dr. J. R. Makeny was born in 1813 and in 1834 began studying medicine in Little Spring, Arkansas with Dr. Wittlers and Wilson. During the Civil War he fought for the Confederate Army and after the war moved to Ironton where he began a medical practice. He was also a regent of the Normal School in Cape Girardeau.
- ◆ W. R. Read was born in 1848 in Iowa and moved to Ironton after his father was killed in a steamboat explosion. He was a merchant in Ironton.

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- ◆ Anton Rochy was born in Alsace, France in 1849 and learned the shoemaker trade but was in the Army for five years before moving to New York in 1871. He spent time in Buffalo, Chicago, Alton, and St. Louis before arriving in Ironton in 1876 and became a liquor dealer. He was also a member of the Odd Fellows.
- ◆ Isaac G. Whitworth St. was born in 1816 in Georgia and his family moved to Cape Girardeau when he was three and later moved to Kentucky. Whitworth worked on his father's farm until he was 20 and after spending time working as a saddler, blacksmith and grocer, he moved his family to Arcadia in 1862 for his children's education. In 1864 he moved to Ironton and opened a mercantile store and in 1878 he became county treasurer and also acted as the Masons lodge treasurer.

The Star of the West Lodge continued to work in Ironton until 1911, when the charter was arrested in April of that year for what was described in records as "certain irregularities" although the charter was restored in April, 1912.²² The Masons continued to be active in the community, with fundraisers, parades, and planning efforts for civic improvements. In 1920, the Masons bought the entire building from the Odd Fellows while the Odd Fellows signed a lease for the third floor. The Masons then bought back the lease from the Odd Fellows in 1964 and continued to use the building into the 1990s.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodges

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows started in eighteenth century England as a loose societal organization of people from various trades who would contribute a part of their wages to a common fund. This fund was used to support the members of the group in times of sickness, death, loss of a job, fires or other tragedies. The groups acted almost like an early form of insurance, a mutual aid society.²³ As the societies grew, they also started to undertake civic projects as well as their charitable work. The society adopted the name the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and was also known as the Three Link Fraternity, in which the three links stand for "Friendship, Love and Truth."²⁴

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows was founded in the United States in 1819 when Thomas Wildey and four members of the Odd Fellows from England founded Washington Lodge Number 1 in Baltimore. The city was in the midst of a yellow fever epidemic and had high unemployment so the men dedicated the organization to "[v]isit the sick, relieve the distress, bury the dead and educate the orphans."²⁵ Like the Masons, the Odd Fellows expanded nationally and the first lodge in Missouri was founded in St. Louis in 1834 and by 1845 the Missouri chapter

²² Ray V. Denslow, *A History of Royal Arch Masons in the State of Missouri*, (Trenton, MO: Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, State of Missouri, 1932) 371.

²³ Independent Order of Odd Fellows, "About Us," [Website] Available at: <http://www.ioof.org/aboutus.html>, Accessed 8/24/2012.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

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was issuing proceedings for their “Quarterly Sessions.” In 1851, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows became the first national fraternity to include women when the Rebekah Degree was adopted in 1851.²⁶

The Iron Lodge 107 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was founded in Arcadia in 1857 by John F. T. Edwards, who was a merchant in Arcadia and was the first court clerk in Iron County, William N. Gregory, another merchant in Arcadia, Benjamin Johnson, the school founder who was also a Mason, A. C. Farham, the first Iron County treasurer, and John H. Henry, W. F. Mitchell, C. R. Peck, Elias Kemp, P. Ake, Hennery Zimmerman, J. T. Garner, Z. G. Harris, and August Travernicht.²⁷ The next year, in 1858, the lodge moved to Ironton, where an existing building was purchased to use as a lodge hall. Just three years after moving to Ironton, Ironton Encampment No. 29 was founded in 1860 by many of the leading citizens in Ironton, including Jakob T. Ake, who was also a member of the Masons, and Franz Dinger, a German immigrant who moved to Evansville, Indiana in 1852 and taught himself English. Dinger moved to Ironton in 1854 and became an attorney in 1866 and was elected mayor of Ironton, a post in which he served for over 24 years. Dinger was also a deputy of the peace and a judge in the probate courts. When he was elected to a county seat, the county was \$35,000 in debt and within six years he had the county in the black. During the Civil War, Dinger was captured and, after his release took charge of his command and led the men to St. Louis. Dinger was also a member of the Masons. Other founding members included B. Shepherd, C. R. Peck, William Ake, D. H. Kenny, P. Ake, David Humphreys, and William Suits, although little is known about these men.²⁸ In addition, the following men (besides those discussed above who were also members of the Masonic lodge) were known to be members of the Odd Fellows during the time the organization was in the Ironton Lodge Building:²⁹

- ◆ John T. Baldwin was born in Hickman City, Kentucky in 1854 and his family moved to Poplar Bluff when he was five. Baldwin moved to Ironton in 1873 and became a carpenter. By 1880 he had formed Baldwin Brothers, a construction company, and bought out B. Shepherd’s saw mill. Baldwin’s company built nearly all the larger buildings in Ironton.
- ◆ William E. Bell was born in 1849 but his family had relocated the family to Ironton after the Battle of Tippacanoe. Bell was in the Civil War and after the war he

²⁶ Ibid; Independent Order of Odd Fellows, “Missouri Grand Lodge,” [Website] Available at: <http://www.moioof.com/MOHistory.html>, Accessed 8/24/2012.

²⁷ *Goodspeed’s History of Southeast Missouri*, 456-458, 1092-1115; *History of Southeast Missouri: A Narrative Account of its Historical Progress, its People and its Principal Interests*, 193, 204, 266, 295, 297, 311, 316, 317, 422-423, 534, 555, 1027.

²⁸ *Goodspeed’s History of Southeast Missouri*, 458.

²⁹ The following information about individual members of the Odd Fellows comes from: *Goodspeed’s History of Southeast Missouri*, 1092-1115; *History of Southeast Missouri*, 193, 204, 266, 295, 297, 311, 316, 317, 422-423, 534, 555, 1027.

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worked in merchandising and carpentry but spent most of his time running a farm near Ironton.

- ◆ J. S. Jordan grew up in Pike County in northeastern Missouri until he was 15 and spent several years roaming the country before landing in Reynolds County in 1876 where he worked as a prosecuting attorney before moving to Ironton in 1888, where he worked as the city attorney.
- ◆ John W. Lashley was born in 1834 and moved to Ironton after the Civil War where he had a 200 acre farm.
- ◆ August Riek was born in Germany in 1846 and after two years of service during the Franco-Prussian War, where he received a medal for bravery from Fredrich William IV. He moved to New York in 1874 and then to Ironton in 1879 where he opened a saloon and mercantile business.³⁰

The Ironton Encampment No. 29 appears to have consolidated with the Iron Lodge No. 107 sometime after the move to Ironton. Although the I.O.O.F organization purchased their own building upon moving to Ironton, the IOOF sold their building twelve years later and used the money to construct the Ironton Lodge Hall, using the third floor to house their lodge while the Mason's leased the second floor for their lodge and the first floor was rented out to commercial businesses. The Odd Fellows owned the building until 1920, when the Star of the West Lodge purchased the entire building and gave the Odd Fellows a ninety-nine year lease on the third floor. The Odd Fellows surrendered their charter not long after the sale of the building.³¹

Auxiliary Organizations

In addition to the IOOF and Masonic Lodges using Ironton Lodge Hall, in 1913, the Ironton Chapter No. 349, Order of the Eastern Star, the women's arm of the Masons, was formed and held their meetings in the building. The new chapter started with 25 members and was formed under the auspices of the Sybilla Chapter No. 276 of Bismarck and the McDonald Chapter No. 128 of Fredericktown. Like the Masons and the Odd Fellows, the Order of the Eastern Star was focused on charitable and civic works. The Masons also had a girl's organization, Job's Daughters, and a boy's organization, DeMolay's Hall which operated and met in the Ironton Lodge Hall. The Ironton Chapter No. 349, Order of the Eastern Star continued to operate in Ironton through at least 1992. In addition, the women's arm of the Odd Fellows, the Rebekahs, also had a chapter meeting in the Ironton Lodge Hall, although little is known about the chapter.³²

³⁰ *Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri*, 1092-1115.

³¹ *Centennial Iron County, 1857-1957, Ironton Missouri May 30-June 2*, 41, 43; *Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri* 457; *Historical Summary of Iron County, Missouri July 4th, 1876*, 12-13.

³² *Centennial Iron County, 1857-1957, Ironton Missouri May 30-June 2*, 43; *Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri*, 457; *Historical Summary of Iron County, Missouri July 4th, 1876*, 12-13; Iron County Historical Society, *Iron County Brought into Focus*, (Ironton, MO: Iron County Historical Society, 1976) 101; *Past and*

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Fraternal Lodges' Social Role

The Ironton Masons, Odd Fellows, Rebekkahs, and Eastern Star counted many of the leading citizens of Ironton as members of their organizations. The lodges were integral to the community, offering community leaders a place to meet outside of their official or commercial positions and work together on charitable and recreational projects that contributed to the well-being of Ironton, what today is known as networking. These fraternal organizations were an integral part of the social fabric of the community, offering fellowship to the members as well as events held for the population of the town. Through most of the history of both organizations in Ironton, this building was the focus of these activities. The Masons had meetings on the Saturday preceding the full moon every month as well as meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of the month and the Odd Fellows met every Monday.³³ The building's location just two blocks directly north of the courthouse meant the building was physically central to the town, making it more accessible to people who wished to join the organization and offering a venue for social interaction outside of businesses, the courthouse, or local taverns. The Ironton Lodge Hall was a central locus of the social fabric of the Masons and the Odd Fellows, organizations that were a major part of the life of Ironton.³⁴

The fraternal organizations that were housed in the Ironton Lodge Hall were and integral part of the community in Ironton. The organizations regularly hosted balls, including the grand opening ball held in January 1874, dances, and dinners not only for their members but also for the community as a whole, hosted in the Ironton Lodge Hall. The organizations also held their meetings in the building. According to Edward Boyd, who was a member of the Star of the West Lodge and who researched the building's history and prepared a Missouri Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form on the building in 1990, the building also served the broader community as a meeting location. The Masons and Odd Fellows also held lodge ceremonies for the funerals of members and attended the meetings of other lodges in Iron County to take part in their ceremonies. Members of the Masons also routinely held ceremonies to lay the cornerstone for new public buildings and churches in the Ironton area. Perhaps the greatest impact for the community as a whole was the extensive charitable works undertaken by these organizations. The Ironton chapters of the Masons and Odd Fellows donated to the support of Arcadia College and helped support the Boy Scouts. The Masons also supported the Masonic Home of

Present: A History of Iron County, Missouri 1857-1994, Vol. 1, 102, 110;

³³ Columbia, Missouri, Western Historical Manuscript Collection, "Ironton County Register," 18 September, 1871- 27 June, 1879, [Website] Available at

<http://statehistoricalsocietyofmissouri.org/cdm/search/collection/icr/searchterm/mason/field/all/mode/all/conn/and/or/der/date/page/1>, Accessed 28 November, 2012; Columbia, Missouri, Western Historical Manuscript Collection, "Ironton County Register," [Microfilm] 1 January, 1880-30 December, 1880.

³⁴ *Centennial Iron County, 1857-1957, Ironton Missouri May 30-June 2*, 41, 43; *Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri*, 456-457; *Past and Present: A History of Iron County, Missouri 1857-1994, Vol. 1*, 110; *Historical Summary of Iron County, Missouri July 4th, 1876*, 11-13.

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Missouri.³⁵

ARCHITECTURE

The Ironton Lodge Hall is an excellent example of Missouri's affinity for the Greek Revival and Italianate styles in the mid-nineteenth century.³⁶ Except for the stone window sills and stone foundation, the building's ornamentation, including the quoins on the front façade and the arched lintels, are muted, made from the same red brick as the rest of the building. Its restrained use of exterior decorative features is most commonly associated with the Greek Revival style. The three-story, commercial building is an adaptation of the classic Greek temple front, with its shallow gabled façade with its broken pediment formed by the raking cornice and cornice returns. It originally featured an embossed wooden three-chain link and IOOF lettering of the building owner in its frieze and has symmetrically arrayed multipaned, wood sashed windows on all four elevations. The Greek Revival style flourished in Missouri, and elsewhere in the young nation, in the mid-nineteenth century, as the most prevalent stylistic influence for used on a community's prominent buildings, usually as freestanding buildings, like banks, churches and public buildings, as well as major homes, but in Ironton, the Ironton Lodge Hall is the best example of continued influence of the Greek Revival style, even after the Civil War.

However, this building is a simplified version of the formality of the Greek Revival style, basically identified by its symmetry, fenestration pattern, heavy cornice and broken pediment, in part indicative of its construction in 1871 as the popularity of this style was waning and being replaced in popularity with the Italianate style. In fact, the Ironton Lodge Hall is a good example of a blending of these two styles, in part because of its adaptation to serve as a commercial storefront and the house of two different fraternal organizations, which resulted in a more rectangular form with three separate floors, one for each occupant. Both styles were commonly used on freestanding buildings, with the fenestration pattern and decorative detailing continued on all four sides of the building, but the Greek Revival style did not utilize arches, and this building's round arched windows are highlighted by heavy arched brick lintels, there are the brick quoins at each corner, and it has a more vertical form emphasized by the tall, narrow window openings, features all common to Italianate commercial designs that became increasingly popular in Missouri after the Civil War and into the 1880s.

In Ironton, the Ironton Lodge Hall was not only one of the few non-vernacular, commercial buildings in Ironton, it was also one of the earliest brick buildings constructed in Ironton, a material reserved for the most prominent buildings, generally the commercial and public

³⁵ Ibid, "Freemasons. Star of the West Lodge No. 133 (Ironton, MO) Records, 1849-1962" [Microfilm]; *An Historic and Architectural Resources Survey of Iron County, MO*, I-43; *Iron County Brought into Focus*, 101.

³⁶ The following discussion of the stylistic influences and design are based upon: John J.G. Blumenson. *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945*. 2nd ed. (Nashville: American Association for State and Local History 1981); John C. Poppeliers and S. Allen Chambers Jr, *What Style is it? A Guide to American Architecture*, (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2003); Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles*, (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1996).

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**Ironton Lodge Hall
Iron County, MO**

buildings in Ironton while most of the residences, churches, as well as many of the commercial buildings were frame structures. In 1883, the building was one of only six brick buildings within three blocks of the courthouse, two of which were actually facing the courthouse square and constructed with unadorned side elevations since it was expected that neighboring buildings would abut the side walls of the buildings. By 1893, only one more brick building had been constructed in the area immediately surrounding the courthouse, and it too faced the courthouse square. By 1908 there were sixteen brick buildings within three blocks of the courthouse with five around the courthouse square and another six (along Main Street) that were storefront buildings with party walls. In 1914 there were still only twenty one- and two-story, brick buildings within three blocks of the courthouse, eleven of which were constructed to have adjoining walls with the neighboring building, although many were actually adjacent to simple frame commercial buildings or even open lots. The development of the community peaked by the early 1920s as did the commercial business district. The commercial district remains a mixture of brick and frame buildings, primarily one and two stories tall. Even outside the commercial district, the residences and churches are primarily frame buildings, and only institutional buildings, like the school, were built of brick.

The Ironton Lodge Hall was not only one of the earliest brick buildings constructed in Ironton, it was also one of the most prominent buildings, distinguished both by its brick walls and Greek Revival affinities, but also by its position at the intersection of Madison Street at the north end of the commercial stretch of Main Street. It was the town's only brick three-story building in the nineteenth century (and the only other three-story building was the wood framed mill)—even the brick courthouse was only two stories tall. Unlike most other brick commercial buildings in Ironton, it was designed to be a free standing building with space on the sides, making it necessary for the architectural detailing to be visible on all elevations. Unlike the storefront buildings constructed to have party walls, which only feature stylistic details on their facades, the Ironton Lodge Hall has architectural detailing, most notably the elaborate cornice treatment and the round arched windows on all four elevations as well as quoins on all four corners of the building. The building's basic Greek Revival form as well as its construction as one of the earliest and tallest brick buildings in Ironton makes the building a significant and important part of the architectural fabric of the city of Ironton.³⁷

³⁷ "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map-1886;" "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map-1893;" "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map-1908;" "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map-1914."

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Iron County, MO**

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**Ironton Lodge Hall
Iron County, MO**

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**Ironton Lodge Hall
Iron County, MO**

Verbal Boundary Description

All of Lots No. Two (2) and Three (3) in Block No. Twenty-four (24), in the City of Ironton, Missouri, as the same are represented on the plat of said City of Ironton, Missouri, on file in the office of the Recorder of Deeds for Iron County, Missouri.

EXCEPT the South 50 feet of Lot 3 conveyed to Fred Cureton and Ella M. Cureton, his wife, by Warranty Deed recorded in Book 90 page 527, Iron County Land Records.

Boundary Justification

These boundaries incorporate all of the property that has been historically associated with this building and the property's legal description.

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**Ironton Lodge Hall
Iron County, MO**

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Figure 8: First Floor Plan

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Figure 10: Third Floor Plan

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Ironton Lodge Hall
Iron County, MO

Map locating the property

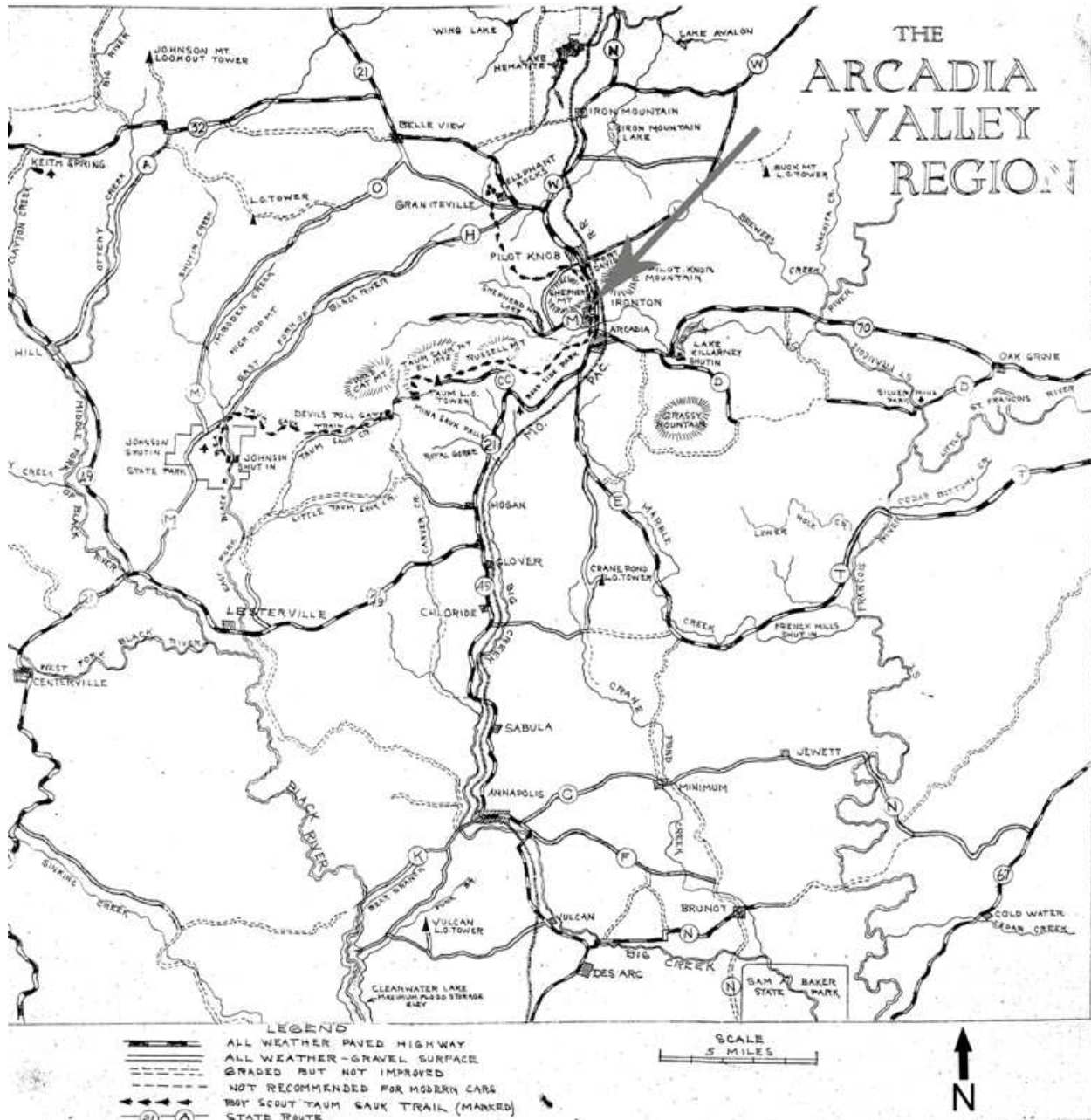


Figure 1

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Ironton Lodge Hall
Iron County, MO

1893 Sanborn Map

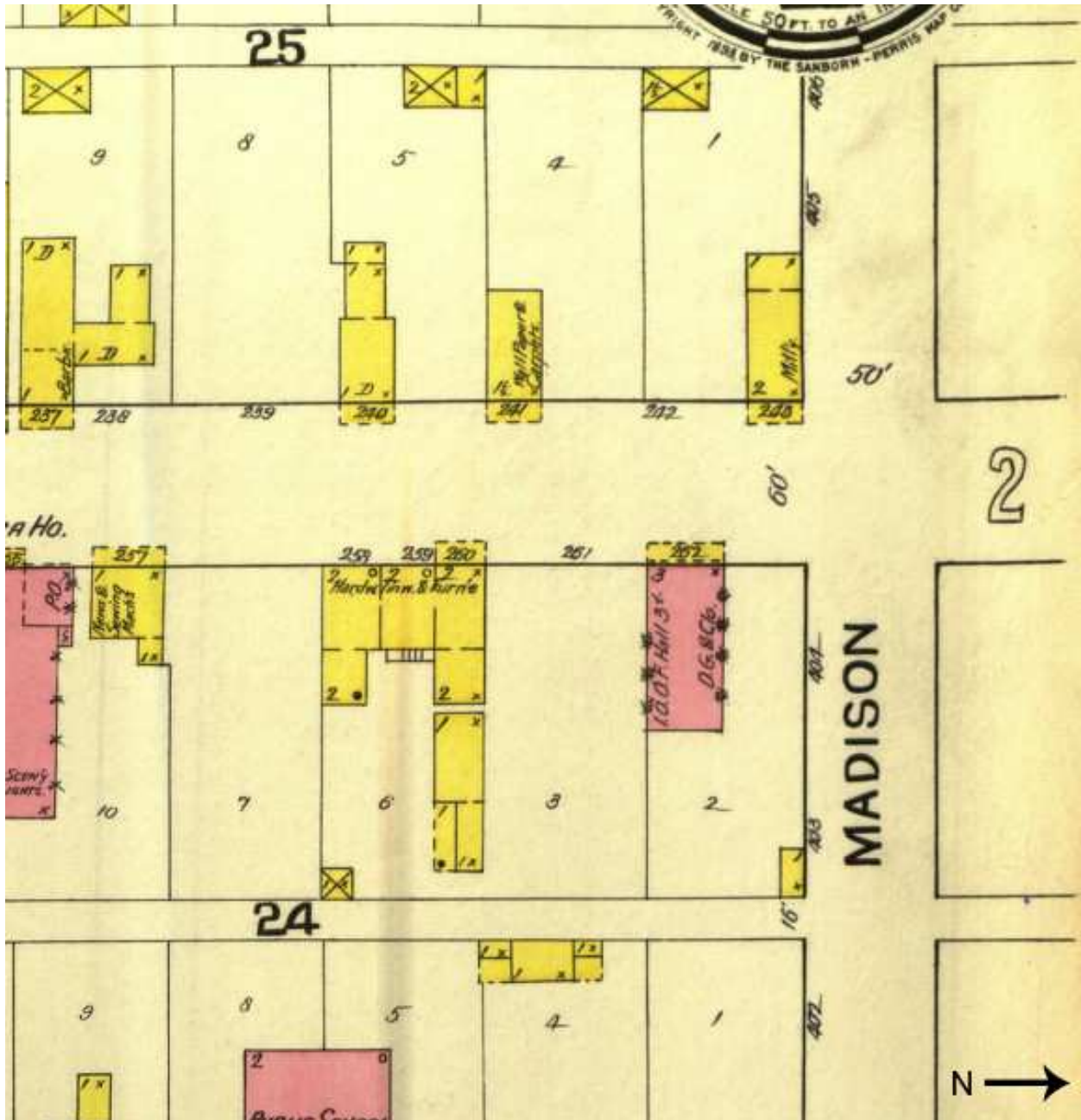


Figure 2

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Ironton Lodge Hall
Iron County, MO

1914 Sanborn Map

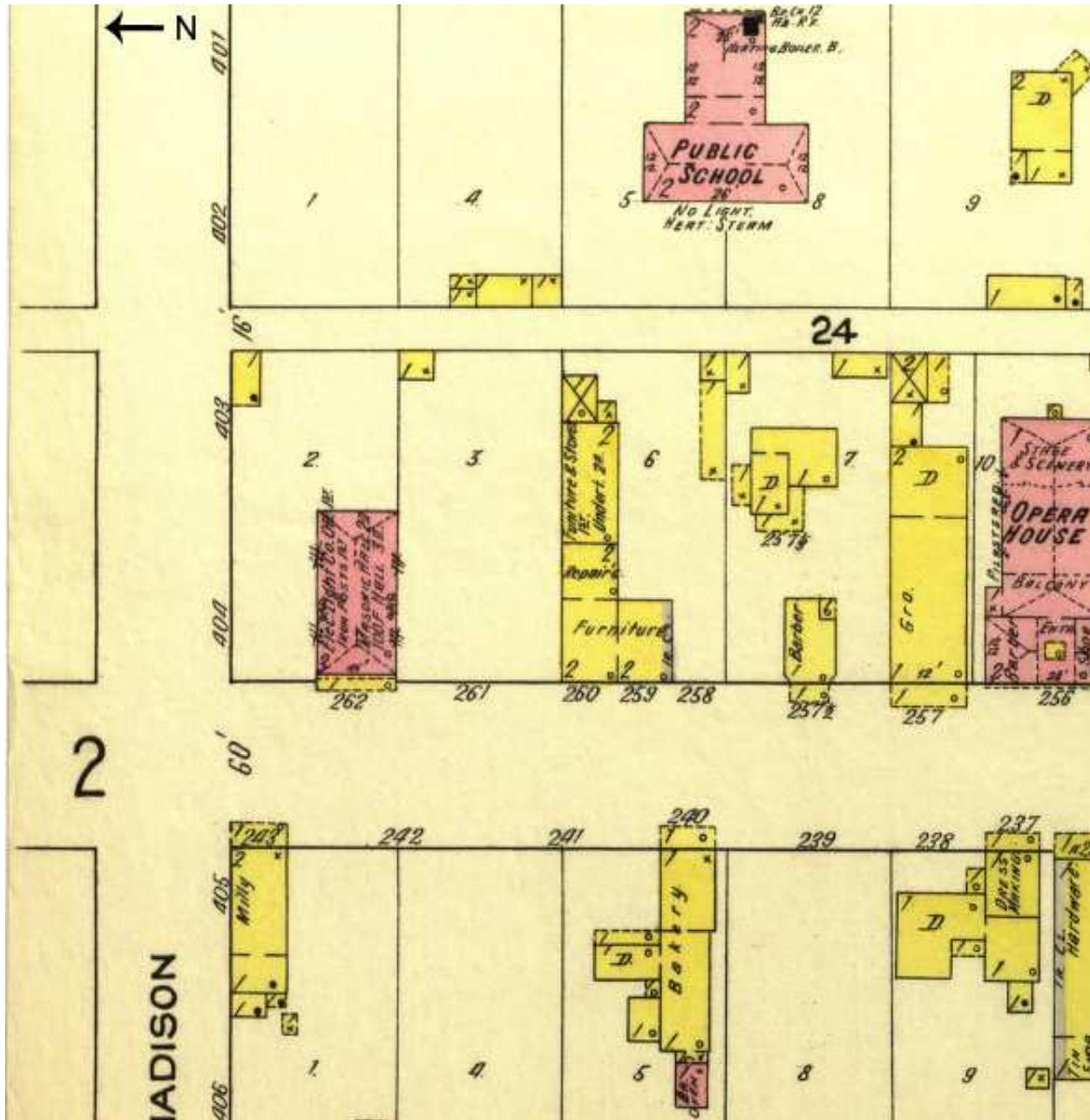


Figure 3

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**Ironton Lodge Hall
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**Historic Photo ca. 1870's
Courtesy of the State Historic Preservation Office County Files
Iron County, Ironton Folder**



Figure 4

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**Ironton Lodge Hall
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**Historic Photo ca. 1880's
Courtesy of the State Historic Preservation Office County Files
Iron County, Ironton Folder**

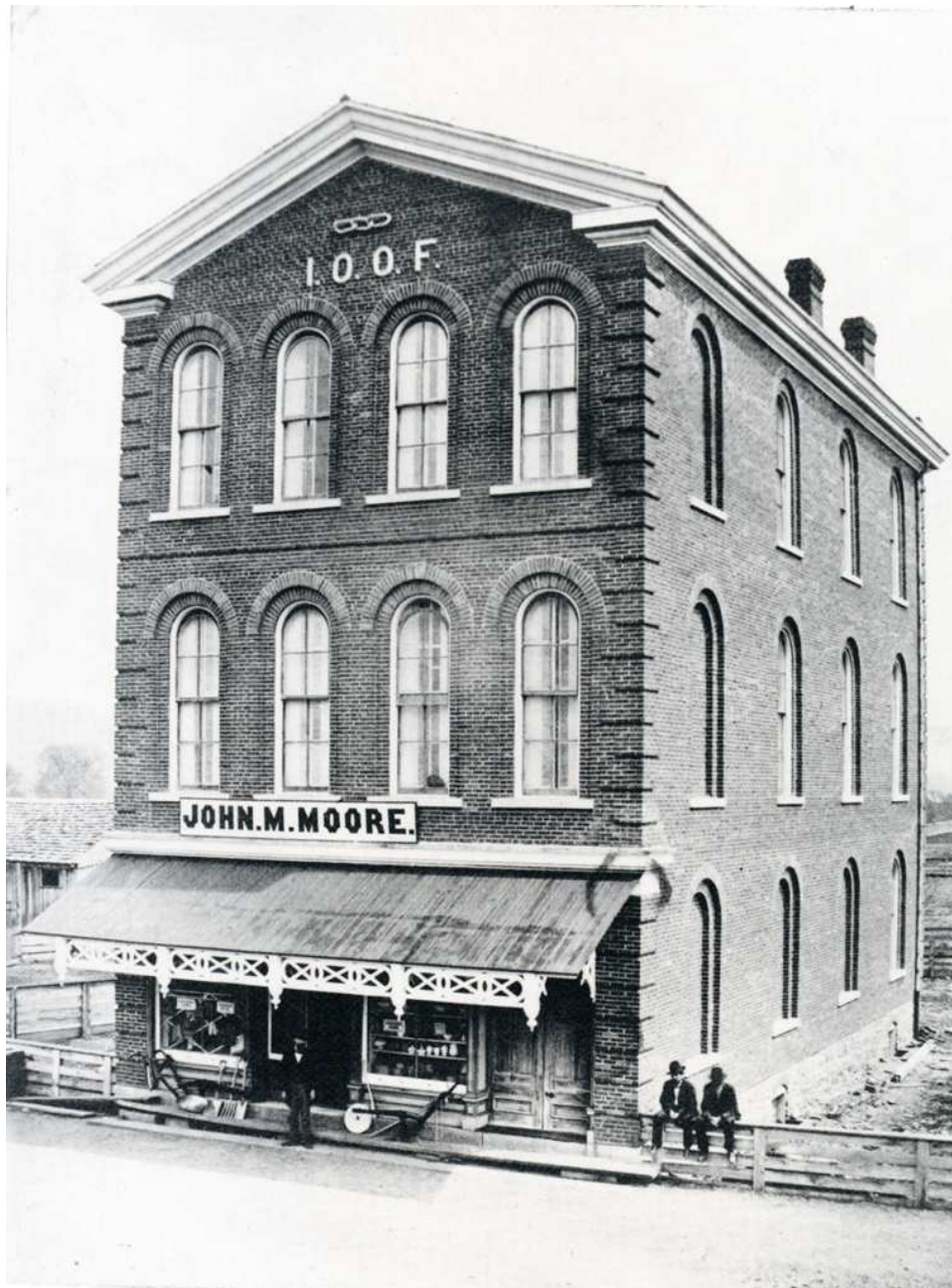


Figure 5

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**Ironton Lodge Hall
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**1929 Receipt
Courtesy of the State Historic Preservation Office County Files
Iron County, Ironton Folder**

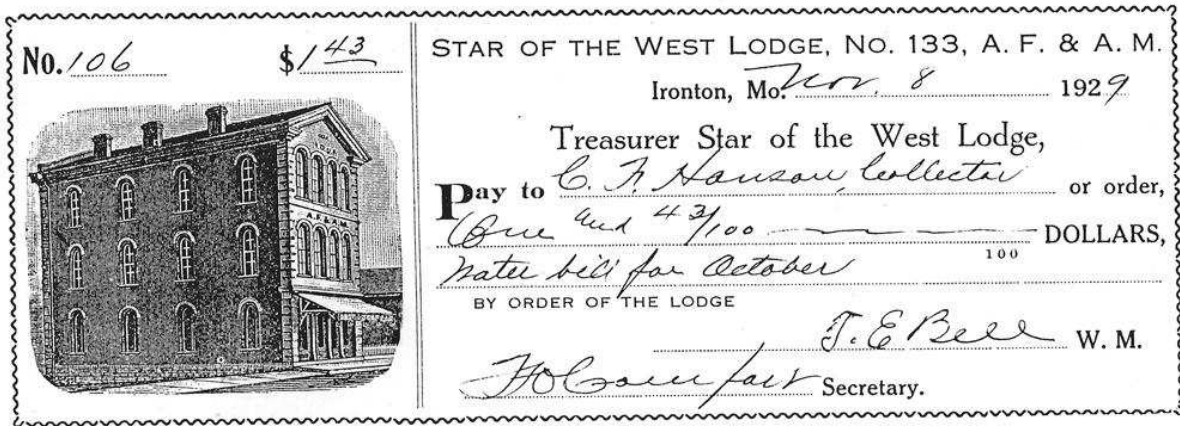


Figure 6

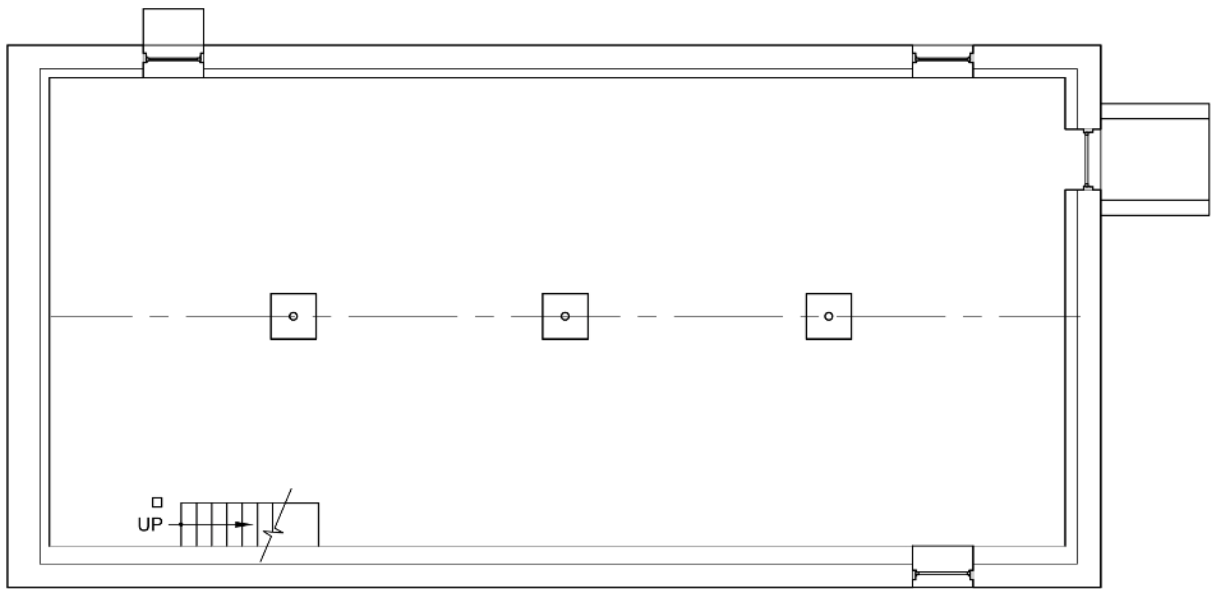
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**Ironton Lodge Hall
Iron County, MO**

Basement Floor Plan Courtesy of Engine House No. 1




 **Basement**
1/8" = 1'-0"

Figure 7

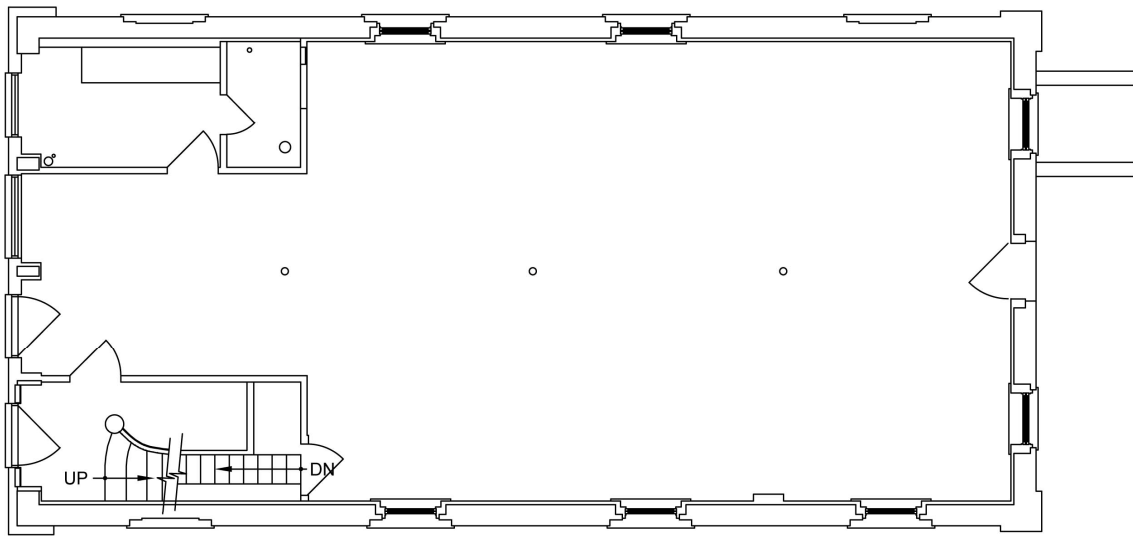
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**Ironton Lodge Hall
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First Floor Plan Courtesy of Engine House No. 1




 **1st Floor**
1/8" = 1'-0"

Figure 8

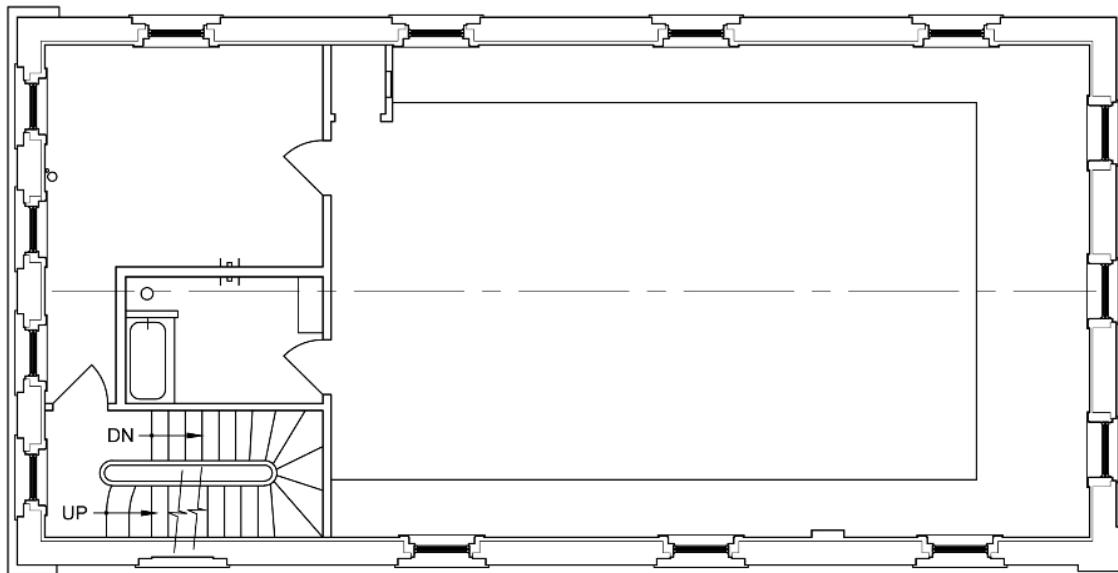
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**Ironton Lodge Hall
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Second Floor Plan Courtesy of Engine House No. 1




 **2nd Floor**
1/8" = 1'-0"

Figure 9

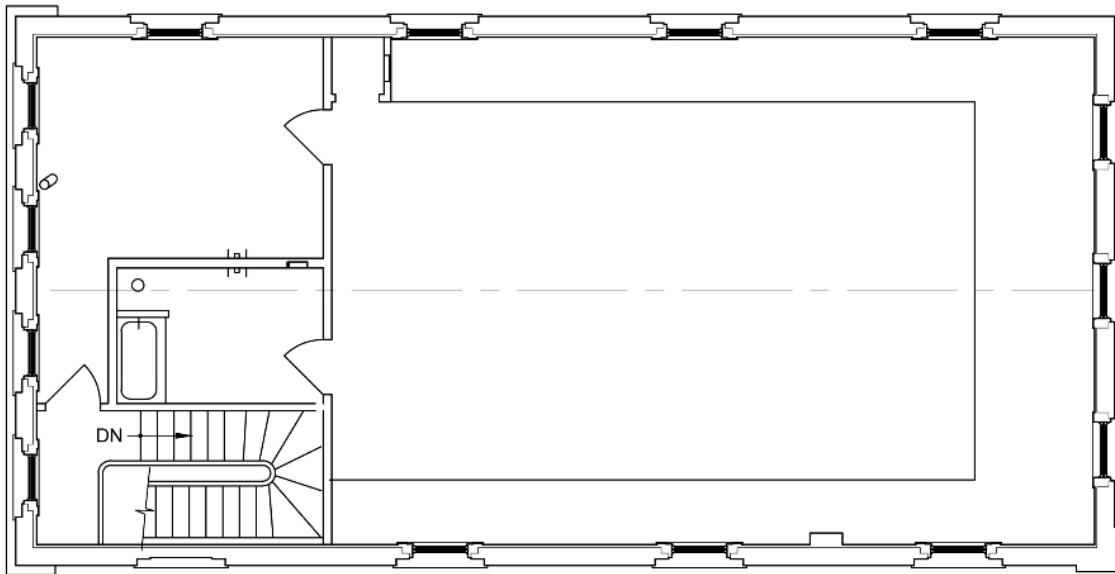
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**Ironton Lodge Hall
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Third Floor Plan Courtesy of Engine House No. 1




 **3th Floor**
1/8" = 1'-0"

Figure 10

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**Ironton Lodge Hall
Iron County, MO**

Photo Log

Photographer: Sheila Findall

June 2012

Negatives with Karen Bode Baxter, 5811 Delor Street, St. Louis, MO 63109

Photo #1: Exterior, looking northeast at the west façade and south elevation

Photo #2: Exterior, looking southwest at the north and east elevations

Photo #3: Exterior, looking north at a south elevation third floor window

Photo #4: Exterior, looking southwest at the east elevation entry door

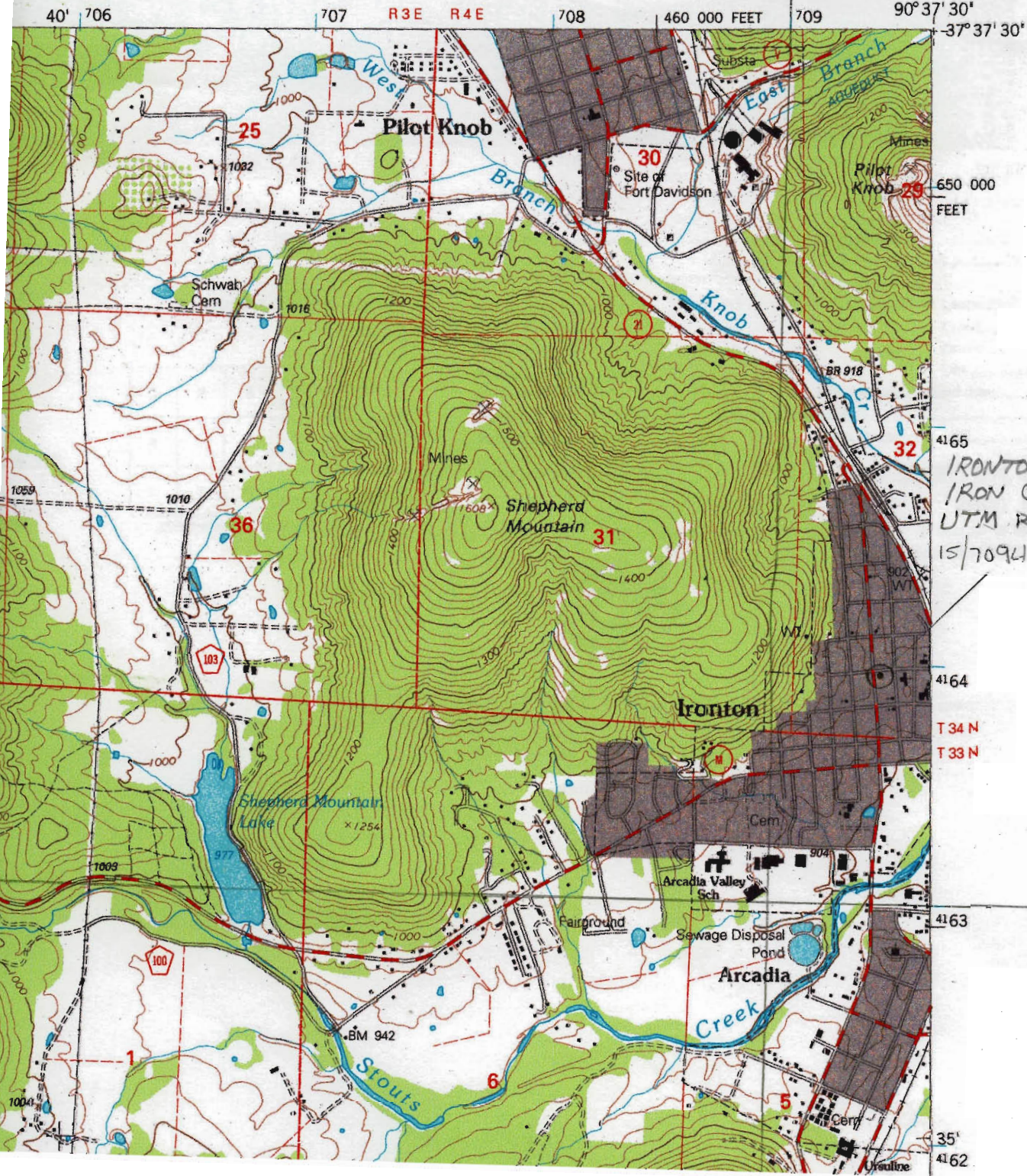
Photo #5: Interior, first floor east room, from the northwest corner looking southeast

Photo #6: Interior, first floor stairs, from west looking east

Photo #7: Interior, second floor stairs, from the northeast corner looking southwest

Photo #8: Interior, third floor east room, from the northwest corner looking southeast

IRONTON QUADRANGLE
MISSOURI-IRON CO.
7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



IRONTON LODGE HALL
IRON CO., MISSOURI
UTM REFS:
15/7094160/4163950

T 34 N
T 33 N

35'
4162









