

Architectural Inventory Form

Official Eligibility Determination
(for OAHP use only)

- Date _____ Initials _____
- _____ Determined Eligible - National Register
 - _____ Determined Not Eligible - National Register
 - _____ Determined Eligible - State Register
 - _____ Determined Not Eligible - State Register
 - _____ Need Data
 - _____ Contributes to eligible National Register District
 - _____ Noncontributing to eligible NR District

I. Identification

1. Resource number: 5HN68.21
2. Temporary resource number: 56
3. County: Hinsdale
4. City: Lake City
5. Historic building name: Masonic Lodge
6. Current building name:
7. Building address: 215 Silver Street, Lake City, CO 81235
8. Owner name and address: Crystal Lake Masonic Lodge, P.O. Box 5 , Lake City CO 81235

II. Geographic Information

County Property No.: R2501T

9. P.M. 6th Township 44N Range 4W SE4 of SW4 of SW4 of Section 27
10. UTM reference
Zone 13 296630 mE 4211280 mN
11. USGS quad name: Lake City Quad year: 1985 Map scale: X 7.5' ___ 15'
12. Block(s): 57 Lot(s): 9 Legal:
Addition: Year of Addition:
13. Boundary description and justification: Perimeter of parcel

III. Architectural Description

14. Building plan: Rectangular
15. Dimensions: 1250 square feet
16. Number of stories: 1
17. External wall material(s): Brick, stone
18. Roof configuration: Flat
19. Roof material: Asphalt
20. Special features: chimney
21. General architectural description:

One-story masonry building with flat roof sloped towards rear. Roof has brick chimney at roof edge. Façade is beige brick with corbeled cornice; has Masonic sign "Lodge No. 34" mounted above entrance. Centered, slightly recessed entrance has a glazed and paneled door and 2-lite transom. Façade windows are multi-pane with concrete sills. Brick string course connects openings, serving as lintel for windows and door. Side walls are rubblestone with red brick above. Stone/concrete foundation. Shallow, shed-roofed addition on rear has metal roof and walls clad in stone-patterned rolled asphalt.

22. Architectural style/Building type: Twentieth-century commercial
23. Landscaping or special setting:

24. Associated building, features or objects:

IV. Architectural History

25. Date of construction Estimate: _____ Actual: 1902 Source of info: Hinsdale County Tax Rolls, 1900-1911
26. Architect: Unknown Source of info:
27. Builder/contractor: Unknown Source of info:
28. Original owner: A. M. Forrest Source of info: Hinsdale County Tax Rolls, 1900-1911
29. Construction history (major additions, alterations, demolitions):
- An ironclad wood storefront was replaced by yellow brick in 1908, upon acquisition by the Masons. Various interior improvements were also made at that time.
30. Original location: Moved Date of move(s) _____

V. Historical Associations

31. Original use(s): Specialty store
32. Intermediate use(s): Meeting hall
33. Current use(s): Meeting hall
34. Site type(s):
35. Historical background:

Viewed from the street, the exterior of 215 Silver presents a bewildering combination of building materials. In architectural terms, the form of the structure is a fairly conventional early 20th Century commercial with parapet walls and flat, sloping roof from front to back. The front facade features wood sash separating four panes of glass, two-over-two, on either side of a single door and transom flush with the sidewalk. The mixture of building materials -- locally quarried bluish-colored sandstone, locally manufactured red brick, and cement on the side walls, and yellow brick stamped with the insignia "Delta Brick & Tile Co., Delta, Colo" on the front elevation. In addition to small sections of concrete work on the north and south walls, concrete is also used as window sills, a single entrance step, and sidewalk, installation of the latter occurring in May, 1909.

Close inspection of the different building materials provides a clue to the building's evolution and perhaps illustrates the declining economics of Lake City. Rough sandstone blocks used in the building's north and south walls probably date to 1902. Sanborn Insurance Map of October, 1902, cites 215 Silver as having stone walls and an iron-clad wooden front. The structure was occupied as a confectionery at that date, according to Sanborn. A material change to the appearance of the building occurred in 1908 when the property was acquired by the local Masonic Lodge, Crystal Lake Lodge No. 34, AF & AM. According to lodge minutes, the "lot and walls" were purchased for \$400, with an estimate \$800 additional would be required "to put the place in shape for occupancy."

Work began March 25, 1908, and was completed in time for the first lodge meeting in the building on June 9, 1908. Discounting a significant amount of volunteer work, direct costs to the local Masons included \$1,007 for labor and materials. In lodge minutes from 1913 providing a summation of the renovation work, it is noted expenses were higher than anticipated in part because of the decision to use brick, instead of sheet metal, on the front of the building. The yellow Delta brick "was a very decided improvement," according to the minutes. Former Lake City resident Herman Leuders, secretary of the State Capitol Commission, contributed a piece of marble rejected from the state capitol construction which was installed as a commemorative tablet on the north corner of the front elevation. The tablet was unveiled in October, 1908, to commemorate 30 years of Masonry in Lake City.

Concurrent with work to finish the exterior of the building, Lake City Masons also finished the interior as a headquarters and meeting room for Crystal Lake Lodge No. 34 and Lake City Chapter No. 36, Order of Eastern Star. Although Eastern Star was disbanded in the early 1960s, Crystal Lake Lodge continues in the building as the second oldest Masonic fraternity in Western Colorado. Lake City's earliest surviving electric sign on the outside of the building consists of a pipe framework supporting two porcelain globes painted with emblems of both the Masons and Eastern Star.

The building's interior is of great historic significance, including decorative stamped metal ceiling which is

one of only two examples (the second is the ceiling of the Finley Block, 130 Silver) in the Lake City Historic District. Apart from significant late 19th Century furnishings (light fixtures, furniture and lodge regalia) dating to the local lodge's origination in the 1870s, the interior configuration consists of a narrow front reception room connected by a single door to the main lodge meeting room. Interior walls are painted plaster with indication of periodic repairs which have occurred as the result of roof leaks. A partition at the rear of the meeting room separates two small storage rooms, together with a later shed-roof addition at the back of the building.

Historic associations at 215 Silver prior to the Masons are a bit nebulous. The lot on which the building is located remains vacant, surrounded by single-story log and frame false fronts, through 1900. In February, 1902, Lake City TIMES reported Quong Wah had purchased the lot and intended to construct a brick building for use as a steam laundry. Further research may determine whether the Chinese laundryman was responsible for the start of stone walls at the site. County tax records indicate the vacant lot reverted from ownership by local businessman W.G. Lockett to J.A. Thatcher of Miners & Merchants Bank in 1903.

Local confectionery dealer A.M. Forrest is listed as the lot's owner in 1903, the assessment to Forrest including \$200 in improvements. Forrest is first referenced in Lake City newspapers in 1883 in connection with saloon management and in intervening years operated a pool hall, restaurant, and confectionery at different times. Forrest's confectionery was located across Silver Street, in Block 58, in 1906, although it would appear he was occupying 215 Silver by 1907. In July, 1907, Lake City TIMES reported "Al Forrest has received a part of the lumber to finish his new business building on Silver Street. Brint Ramsey has the contract to complete the building, which is an assurance that there will be no unnecessary delay on the part of the contractor." A.M. Forrest sold his confectionery business to Lillian Baker in June, 1908, and the business was relocated to the Watson Shoe Building, 308 Silver.

Members of the Masonic fraternity were active in Lake City from the town's inception. An organizational meeting was held in December, 1875, resulting in formation of a Lake City Masonic Building Association with a capital stock of \$2,5000. Lots near the southeast corner of Gunnison Avenue and Third Street were tentatively identified as the site for a Masonic building. Crystal Lake Lodge No. 34 received dispensation September 18, 1878, following closely on the heels of Silverton Lodge No. 33 as the first and second Masonic lodges established on the Western Slope of Colorado. Prior to obtaining its present lodge headquarters at 215 Silver, Lake City Masons shared lodge meeting space with Silver Star Lodge No. 27, IOOF, in an upstairs room of the Moore Building, Gunnison Avenue, followed by rental rooms in the Franklin Block on Third Street and upstairs in the Hough Block, 304 Silver.

Masonic Hall was formerly surrounded on both sides by false-front commercial buildings, including the two-story W.G. Lockett furniture store which stood toward the center of vacant lots to the immediate south. In 1921-22 Otis Olson dismantled three false-fronts to the immediate south of the Masonic Building, two false-fronts comprising the former Centennial House Hotel, and the Lockett Building. Olson used the lumber to build tourist cottages at Lakeshore at Lake San Cristobal. A fourth building to the south of Masonic Building, the W.C. Glass Building on the northwest corner of Silver and Second Street, was bulldozed by Wesley West in 1947

36. Sources of information:

Hinsdale County Tax Rolls, 1900-1911; Meeting minutes of Silver Star Lodge No. 34, AF & AM, February 13, 1913; Lake City TIMES, Thurs., February 13, 1902, page 3, Thurs., July 25, 1907, page 3, Thurs., June 18, 1908, page 3, Thurs., May 27, 1909, page 3; Sanborn Insurance Map, Lake City, Colorado, October 1902.

VI. Significance

37. Local landmark: Yes No Date of design.: _____ Design. authority: _____

Within Lake City Historic District (local historic district)

38. Applicable National Register Criteria:

- A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history;
- B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory
- Qualifies under Criteria Considerations A through G
- Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria

39. Area(s) of significance: Social history, architecture

40. Period of significance: 1908 - 1953

41. Level of significance: National State Local

42. Statement of significance:

The masonry building is associated with the Crystal Lake Lodge No. 34 formed in 1878 as the second Masonic Lodge on the Western Slope. The lodge hall reflects the prominence of fraternal organizations in Lake City in the late 1800s and early 1900s. It is the only extant lodge hall remaining in town. Its design is representative of one-story brick commercial buildings constructed in Lake City and elsewhere in Colorado during the first decades of the twentieth century, as reflected by its flat roof, brick walls, and storefront windows.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity to significance:

The architectural integrity of this dwelling is intact, as evidenced by minimal alterations to its character-defining features.

VII. National Register Eligibility Assessment

44. National Register eligibility field assessment: Eligible Not Eligible Need Data

45. Is there National Register district potential? Yes No

Discuss _____

If there is National Register district potential, is this building Contributing Noncontributing

46. If the building is in an existing National Register district is it? Contributing Noncontributing
(Lake City National Historic District)

VIII. Recording Information

47. Photograph numbers: Roll 12, frames 3, 4, 25 Negatives filed at: Lake City Town Hall

48. Report title: 2003 Architectural Survey of Lake City, Colorado

49. Date(s): September 2002 - June 2003

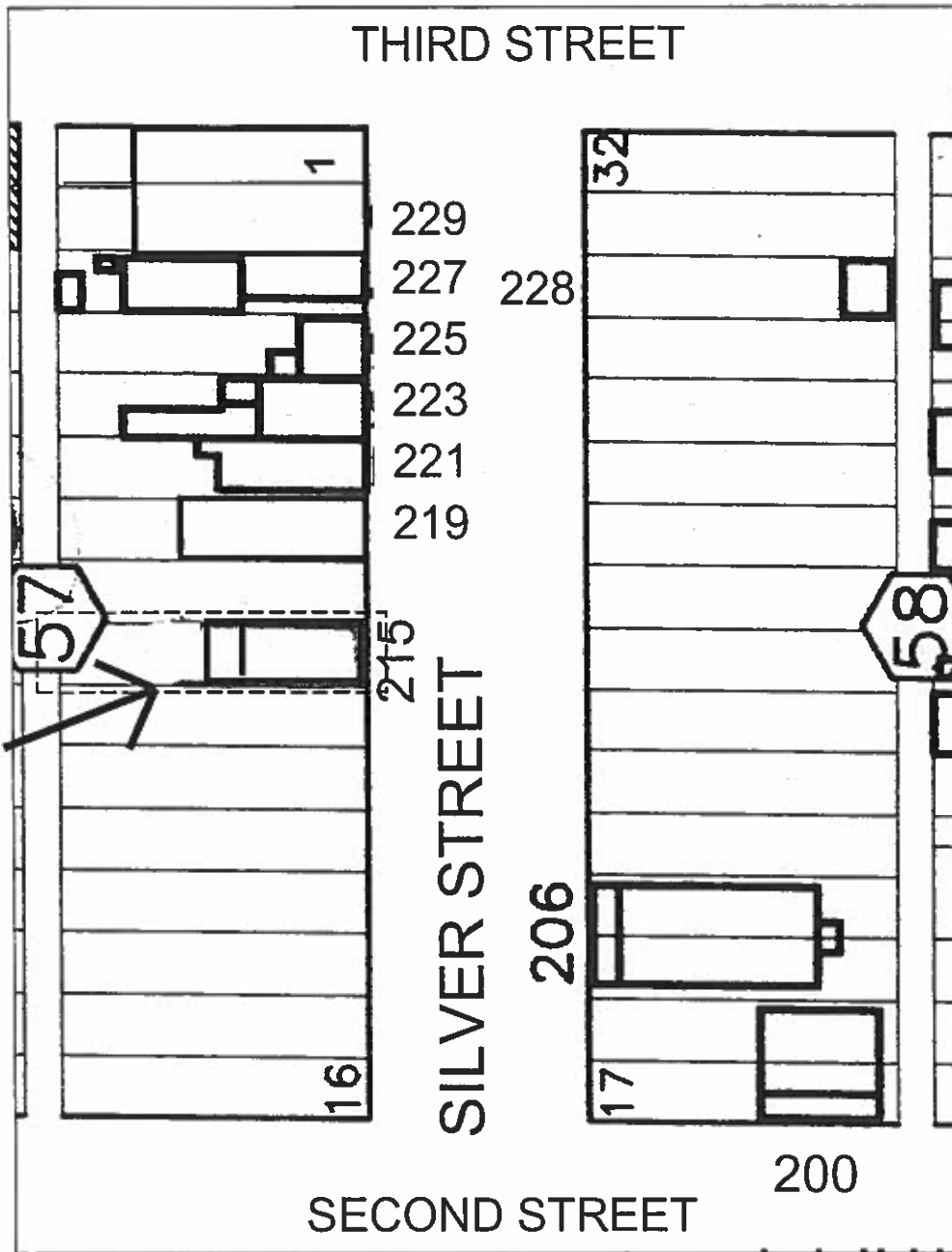
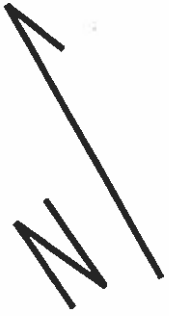
50. Recorders Cathleen M. Norman and Grant E. Houston

51. Organization: Town of Lake City

52. Address: 230 Bluff Street, Lake City CO 81235 53. Phone no. (970) 944-2333

Colorado Historical Society - Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
1300 Broadway, Denver CO 80203 (303) 866-3395

NOT TO SCALE



5HN68.21

215 Silver Street