

Masonic Lodge
South Pass Avenue (west of Dakota Street)
South Pass City
Fremont County
Wyoming

HABS No. WYO-40

HABS
WYO,
7-SOPAC,
13-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20005

MASONIC LODGE

HABS
WYO,
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Location: South Pass Avenue (west of Dakota Street), South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming.
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS South Pass City Quadrangle Map) 12.680610.4704020.

Present Owner: Masonic Lodge of Lander, Wyoming.

Present Use: Built as a replica of the first Masonic Lodge in the State of Wyoming, the building is a memorial.

Statement of Significance: The building memorializes the first Masonic Lodge in the State of Wyoming.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Original structure erected 1868; reproduction on original site, 1969.
2. Architect: Unknown. Built by the Freund brothers.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description of property: Lot 141 on South Pass Avenue (west of Dakota Street), South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming.

(Note: For further information on land ownership in South Pass City see the HABS Report on South Pass City, WYO-27.) Built by the Freund brothers in 1868, the first floor of the original building was used as a gunshop operated by the Freunds and the second floor was used as a meeting room by the masons. The South Pass Masonic Lodge was granted a dispensation under the Nebraska Jurisdiction on November 24, 1869 and chartered on August 2, 1870 as Wyoming Lodge No. 28, despite the fact that it was the first Masonic Lodge in the Territory. On February 20, 1875 the lodge was redesignated Wyoming Lodge No. 2. Nathan A. Baker, editor of the South Pass News was the first leader of this Wyoming Lodge. The Masons held their meetings in the building until December 7, 1878, when the lodge was moved to Lander, Wyoming. Shortly thereafter the original building was razed by fire.

The Lander Masons purchased the site of the original Lodge from the Federal Gold Mining Company in 1925. In 1968, the Lander Masonic Lodge began a fund raising campaign to rebuild

the original structure. This goal was completed in 1969 and the present building was constructed. However, the doors, windows and second floor vertical siding are not an exact duplication of the original building.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: There is a print of the original building in the photograph file of the Wyoming Recreation Commission, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Files on South Pass City, Western History Research Center, Coe Library, University of Wyoming; Laramie, Wyoming.

Files on South Pass City, Wyoming State Archives and Historical Research Department; Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Fremont County, Abstract of Titles for South Pass City, Fremont County Courthouse; Lander, Wyoming.

Shaffer, Thomas, planner for the Wyoming Recreation Commission; interview in Cheyenne, Wyoming on June 19, 1973.

Prepared by John Paige
Project Historian
National Park Service
Summer, 1973

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during the 1973 Wyoming Project undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Wyoming Recreation Commission. During the project, records were made on twenty-eight (28) individual subjects and six (6) historic areas.

This project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was Professor J. William Rudd, Architect, of the University of Cincinnati. Project Historian was John Paige, Oklahoma State University. The measured drawings were prepared by John Uhlir, University of California at Berkeley, Architect;

and Student Assistant Architects Richard Duflocq, University of Cincinnati, Clayton Fraser, University of Tennessee, and Richard Wyatt, California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. This report was edited for HABS in 1977 by Candace Reed.