

WASHINGTON HERITAGE REGISTER

A) Identification

Historic Name: **Oroville Grange Hall #985**

Common Name: Grange Hall

Address: 622 Fir Street

City: Oroville

County: Okanogan

B) Site Access (describe site access, restrictions, etc.)

Unrestricted access is from the north and east sides of the property.

C) Property owner(s), Address and Zip

Name: Oroville Grange #985

Address: 622 Fir Street

City: Oroville

State: WA

Zip: 98844

D) Legal boundary description and boundary justification

Tax No./Parcel: 2040811400

Boundary Justification: Lots 14 and 15, Block 81 Plat of an Addition to Okanogan County, State of Washington, as per Plat thereof recorded in Book B of Plats, page 1, records of the Auditor of Okanogan County, WA

FORM PREPARED BY

Name: Joan Krajewski

Address: PO Box 2258

City / State / Zip: Oroville, WA 98844

Email: Jkrajewski2@outlook.com

Phone: (425) 233-5092

Nomination: October

Date: 2024

WASHINGTON HERITAGE REGISTER

E) Category of Property (Choose One)

- building* *structure (irrigation system, bridge, etc.)* *district*
 object (statue, grave marker, vessel, etc.) *cemetery/burial site*
 historic site (site of an important event) *archaeological site*
 traditional cultural property (spiritual or creation site, etc.)
 cultural landscape (habitation, agricultural, industrial, recreational, etc.)

F) Area of Significance – Check as many as apply

- The property belongs to the early settlement, commercial development, or original native occupation of a community or region.*
- The property is directly connected to a movement, organization, institution, religion, or club which served as a focal point for a community or group.*
- The property is directly connected to specific activities or events which had a lasting impact on the community or region.*
- The property is associated with legends, spiritual or religious practices, or life ways which are uniquely related to a piece of land or to a natural feature.*
- The property displays strong patterns of land use or alterations of the environment which occurred during the historic period (cultivation, landscaping, industry, mining, irrigation, recreation).*
- The property is directly associated with an individual who made an important contribution to a community or to a group of people.*
- The property has strong artistic, architectural or engineering qualities, or displays unusual materials or craftwork belonging to a historic era.*
- The property was designed or built by an influential architect, or reflects the work of an important artisan.*
- Archaeological investigation of the property has or will increase our understanding of past cultures or life ways.*

WASHINGTON HERITAGE REGISTER

G) Property Description

The Oroville Grange Hall #985 is located south of downtown Orville across from Prince Heritage Park. The structure sits on the southwest corner of 7th Ave and Fir St and faces east on the edge of a residential neighborhood. The site is flat and has no landscaping. The building is a distinct one-story concrete block building and rests on a tall (approximately 5.5 feet) concrete block, raised basement. The building has a barrel vault roof with little overhang. The roof is clad with corrugated metal. The exterior of the building is void of any architectural decoration and is presently painted in a two-tone shade of green. Windows are limited to small openings of one-over-one double hung and/or sliding vinyl units. On the primary facade a concrete stoop at the center façade rises up to a simple metal entry door. A secondary door to the right, at the ground level, allows access to the basement space.

The rear façade is void of windows and has a single metal door at the basement level near the northwest corner. The door opening has an arched top.

Inside the main floor of the hall is divided into three parts; a foyer, main hall, and rear storage rooms. The larger foyer provides access to two small restrooms on the south, and stair and storage area on the north. The room has a flat wood T & G ceiling and exposed T & G walls. Light fixtures are newer replacements. The outside wall is exposed concrete block. The main hall is a large column-less space with hardwood floors and a flat wood T & G ceiling. Light fixtures and ceiling fans are newer replacements. The walls are clad with plywood paneling. At the rear of the hall, to west are large doors which open to rear storage areas. Centered on this wall is a small raised stage area.

The basement space is divided longitudinally by a row of large posts. Here linoleum floors and a commercial kitchen area to facilitate functions requiring food prep. The ceiling has a popcorn finished plaster and the outside walls finished in plywood paneling. The kitchen has exposed concrete block walls and modern kitchen fixtures. Some period cabinetry remains.

Heating throughout the building is modern-day mini-split units.

Alterations include the removal of wood fired barrel stoves which were fueled by apple wood. The original entrance to the building was through a set of double wood doors flanked by glass block. After their removal the wider space was filled with concrete

blocks. Per historic images that entry also was accessed via set of wooden stairs replaced with concrete at an unknown date. The basement access door, originally a set of double doors was also replaced with a single door (date known). In 2024, during a drainage remediation project, a chimney on the rear façade was removed.

H) Significance

The Oroville Grange Hall #985 is historically significant as place of community center where regional residents (both Grange and non-Grange members) gather for educational events, town and Grange meetings, dances, potlucks, and community events. The building was completed in 1957.

As an organization, the Oroville Grange #985 was established in June 1931. as part of a movement dating from 1867 to organize farmers nationally for social, educational, and commercial purposes. Then, as is the case now, the agricultural and forestry sectors were Oroville's largest employers. For the next 25 years, the Oroville Grange members met at local schools and homes until 1957, when local volunteers completed construction of the Grange Hall. Years of grassroots bake and quilt sales, card parties, catering of civic dinners, hall rentals, in-kind labor, and donations funded the building.

The community of Oroville began as a small mining camp in in the 1860s, just prior to the Civil War. However, it did not begin to develop until the area was thrown open to Euro-American settlement in 1886. The near-by mineral resources assured the town's future and Oroville's first store, established in 1891, was soon followed by other enterprises, including more than 20 saloons. In an attempt to attract prospectors and merchants, the settlement was initially named Oro, after the Spanish word for gold. However, the Post Office objected to the name because a town a town of a similar name (Oso) had already been approved. Eventually the settlement's name was changed to Oroville. By then the community was served as a stop along the Spokane Falls & Northern Railway line which ran from British Columbia to Spokane, via Molson and Chesaw. In 1914 a third branch connected the city to the south through Wenatchee. From here the town grew and incorporated in 1908. By 1910 the population reached 495, and then double in the next ten years. Continued growth however was slow and only hit 1,500 in 1950. Today the population still hovers around this number.

It was during these peak years of population that the Grange Hall was constructed. Design and construction of the hall was a community volunteer led effort. Noting that "The Oroville Grange has long felt the need of a hall of their own, where they would be free to meet for their regular meetings and also any special meetings or parties that arise at different times," a building committee was formed in 1954. Led by George Ueland (owner of the local Western Auto and Grange Vice-President), by January 1955 the committee estimated target cost of materials for a proposed hall would be \$4,000. Seeking ideas for designs, Ueland and the Committee visited other grange

halls in the Okanogan Valley for reference but were also inspired by the various agricultural warehouses that they had seen on their trip. While it is unclear as to who completed the final design, grange members voted to approve construction of a new hall in August 1955.

Ground was broken in June 1956, after paying excavation expenses out of its own accounts. Additional funding was sought through a \$4,000 mortgage note from Grange Mutual Life Company. The loan was approved in August 1956. Construction of the building above ground began in June 1956. The timbers and rough-cut lumber was purchased from the Valley Veneer Mill in Okanogan. The arched metal roof trusses were shipped to the site ready-made. Costs exceeded initial estimates and by December 1956, the Grange sought a second loan of \$3500 from Grange Mutual Life Company to finish the building. While some members of the Grange watched the building progress and made suggestions, many participated heavily in various work sessions. The construction work was labor intensive. The ladies' auxiliary often held work party picnics across the street to support the construction volunteers. Reportedly a total of 4,894 volunteer hours were given towards the construction of the building.

The Grange held its first meeting in the Hall on June 5, 1957. George Ueland's comments were paraphrased in the meeting minutes as follows:

George Ueland explained the work that has been done this past year and especially the hard work done in the past four weeks to make it possible for us to be here tonight, and he thanked all who have helped physically, financially and morally. It has been one full year of hard work and the Grangers have been giving liberally of their time and help.

Formal dedication of the hall came a little over a year later on July 19, 1958. At the ceremony A. Lars Nelson, Master of the Washington Grange, dedicated the building and remarks were provided by mayor Everett Easley. After ten additional years of fundraising by the Grange, the mortgage notes were eventually paid off in the late 1960's.

During 1955-1957, neither Oroville nor Okanogan County had a building department. In conversations with Dan Higbee, the current Okanogan County Building Official, no architect on record is likely for the building. The most one would find is a pencil drawing. Indeed, this is the case with the Grange archives.

The Grange Hall has a curved metal roof, the design of which is derived from the Quonset Hut (QH). The QH holds a significant place in architectural history. The QH was designed for Navy use during World War II.

The Oroville Grange Hall reflects this post-war vernacular style adopted by the agricultural sector of that period. As used on fruit warehouses, the clear span of the curved roof was perfect for a multi-purpose community hall. The Hall's use of concrete

blocks in wall construction echoed the use of strong masonry materials to support the agricultural warehouse roofs. The style and mode of construction is unsurprising because a substantial number of the Grange's volunteer builders were farmers and orchardists.

Grange historian, Holly Taylor noted in a comprehensive review of all Washington Grange Halls that the Oroville Grange Hall is one of four post-WWII Grange halls in Washington State built with a barrel vault roof system. These include the Goldendale Hall #49 (1948); North Creek Valley Grange #769, north of Bothell (1949); and Stranger Creek Grange #374 in the community of Gifford (1952). While the Stanger Creek Hall is actually a full Quonset hut design, the Goldendale and North Creek Valley Halls have barrel vault roofs like the Oroville Hall. The North Creek Valley Grange Hall is all wood construction and while the Goldendale Hall is a larger t-shaped structure, its design closely resembles that of the Oroville Hall, with its raised entry, concrete block exterior and simple architectural detailing.

Taylor writes: "Even though the number of active granges in Washington State began to decline in the 1940s, along with the number of farms, the number of individual grange members continued to increase, peaking in 1981 at nearly 73,000; the number of granges remained above 400 until the end of the 1980s." In 1950 the Washington Granger's Guide listed 485 active granges, 352 of which owned their meeting halls.

Grange construction peaked during the post WWII era with 17 in the 1940s, and a high of 25 constructed in the 1950s. Subsequently the numbers drastically reduced with only 16 constructed in the 1960s, 8 in the 1970s and just 3 in the 1980s.

Today the Oroville Grange Hall continues its vibrancy by having evolved beyond its original intent to embrace a variety of community needs. It serves as regional community gathering space that is inclusive venue for music, arts, nurturance, and celebrations. It incubates local chef entrepreneurs in its commercial kitchen while still maintaining ties to Oroville's agricultural roots. And in the small community of Oroville, the hall remains the largest public space in the local area.

WASHINGTON HERITAGE REGISTER

I) Documentation

Xerox and attach any information or evidence that supports the property's significance.

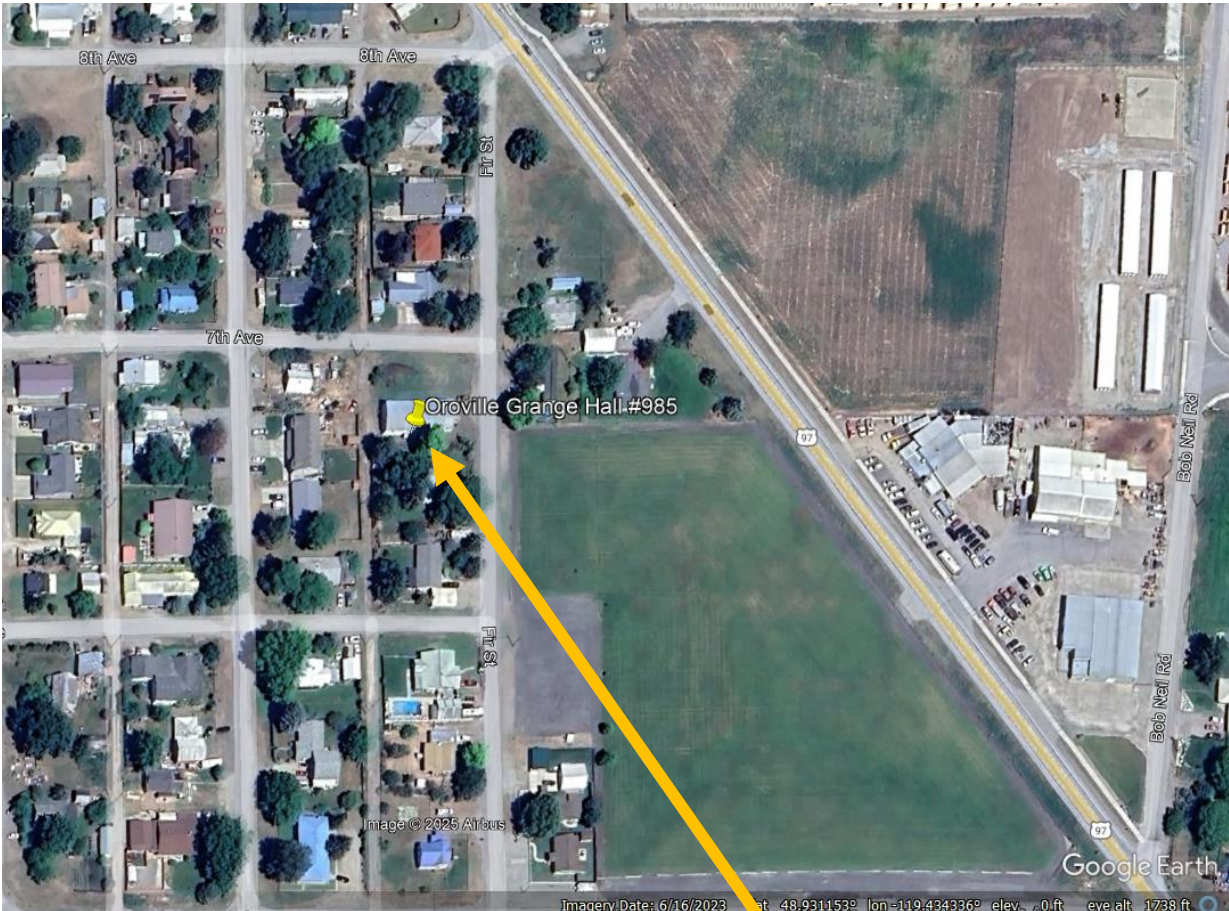
Written Sources (*books, articles, newspapers*): See sources cited above and below in Sections H and J.

- Grange Archives maintained at the Oroville Grange Hall (1931-1958, photographs, minutes, letters, community reports, and ledgers).
- [Still centers of farm community, Granges adapt in a changing world - Salish Current \(salish-current.org\)](http://salish-current.org);
- [Company History](#) (United Heritage Life History)
- [Quonset: Metal Living for a Modern Age](#)
- [Grange Halls in Washington State: A Critical Investigation of a Vernacular Building Type; Washington State Grange - HistoryLink.org](#)
- [Quonset Hut | Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation \(DAHP\)](#)
- [The Poorest Town in Washington has been Revealed – accesslocal.tv](#)

Oral History/Interviews:

J) Map and Photographs

Attach copies of historic maps or photos if available, and current photos (min 5 x 7 digital images, 300 DPI). Include a current map – appropriate Google Earth/U.S.G.S. map and parcel map – with the location of the property and its boundaries clearly marked. (see instructions)

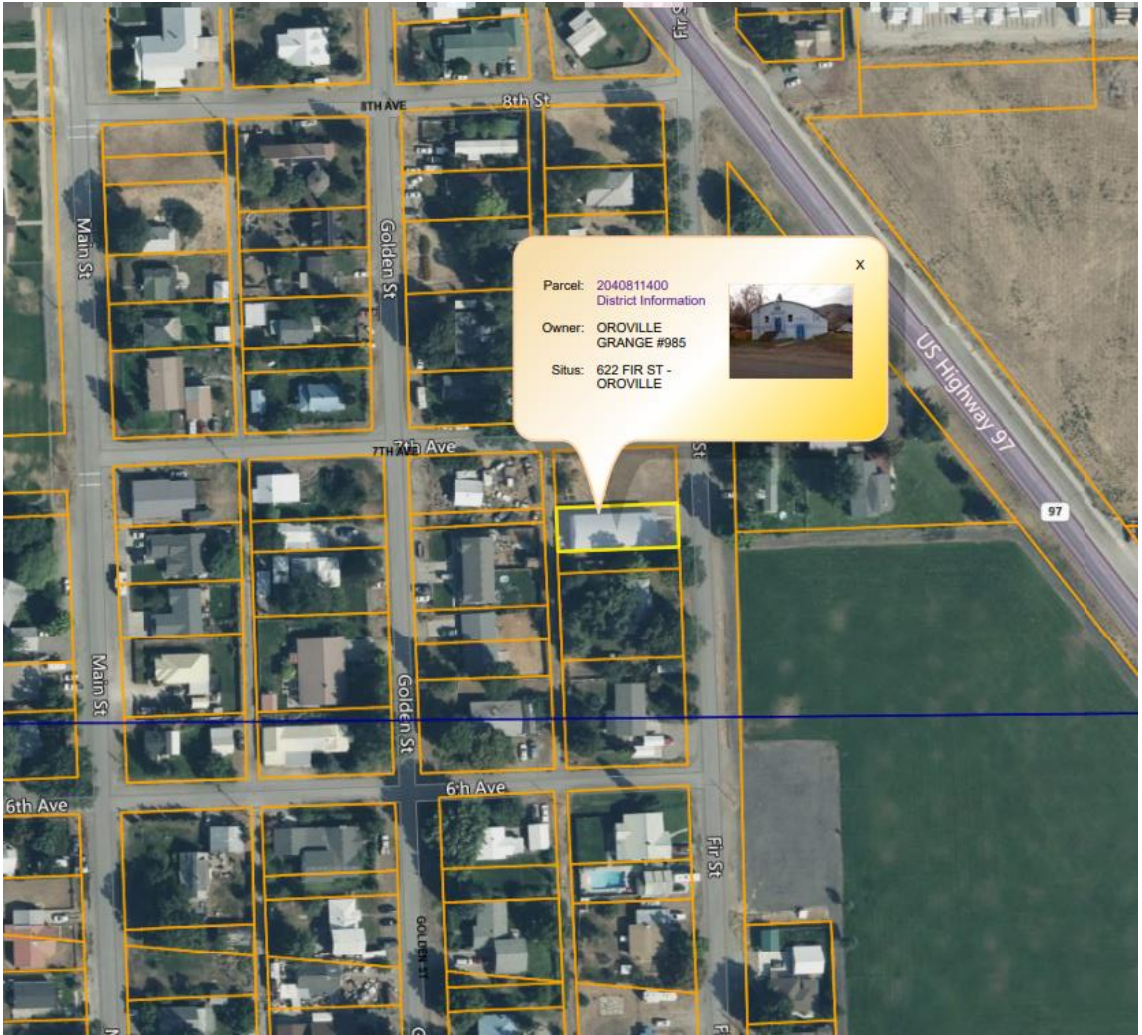


Oroville Grange Hall #985

622 Fir Street
Oroville, WA

Google Earth Map

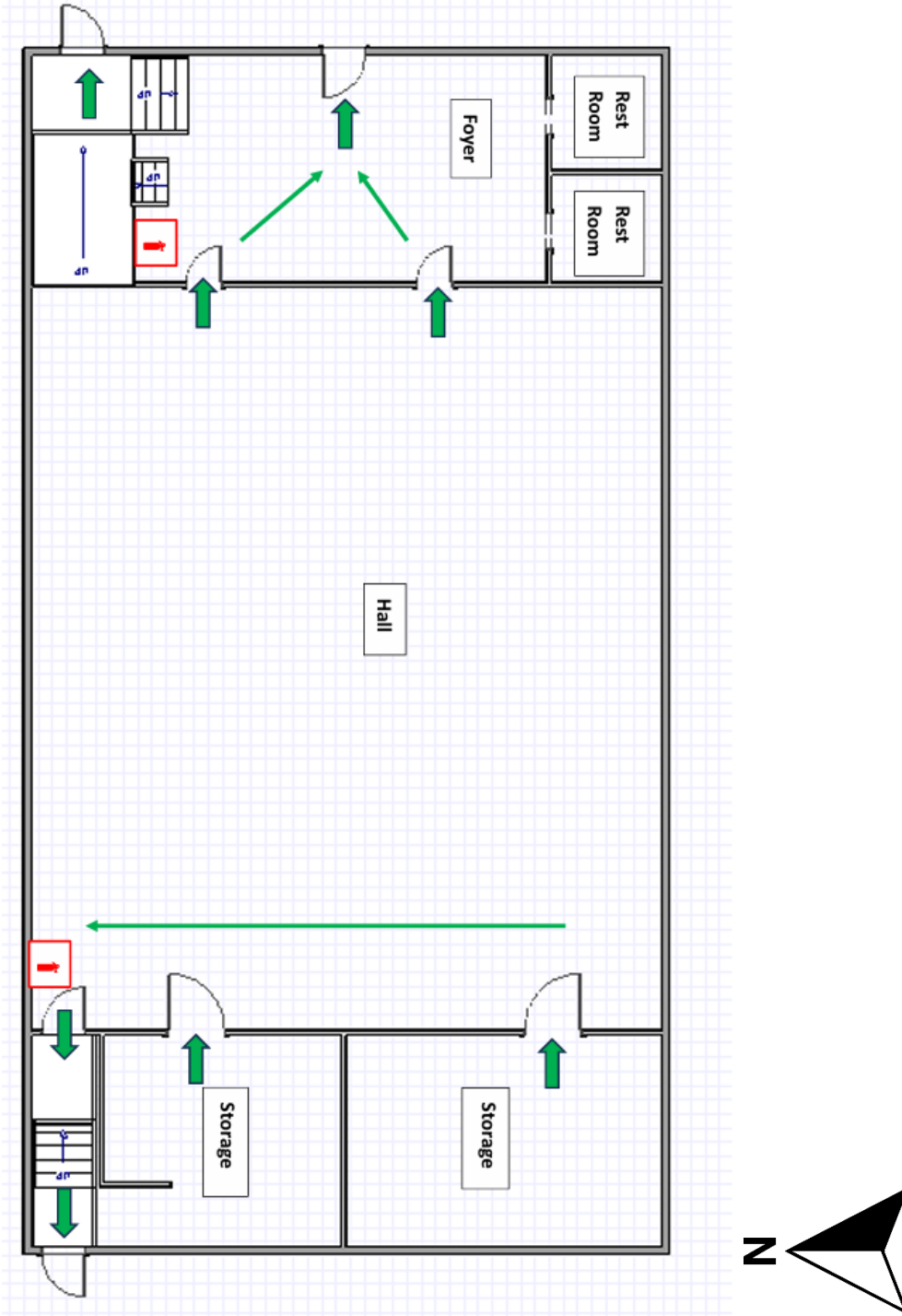
Name:	<input type="text" value="Oroville Grange Hall #985"/>	
Latitude:	<input type="text" value="48.930861°"/>	
Longitude:	<input type="text" value="-119.434449°"/>	



Oroville Grange Hall #985

622 Fir Street
Oroville, WA

Assessor Map:
Okanogan Terra Scan Mapsifter Data

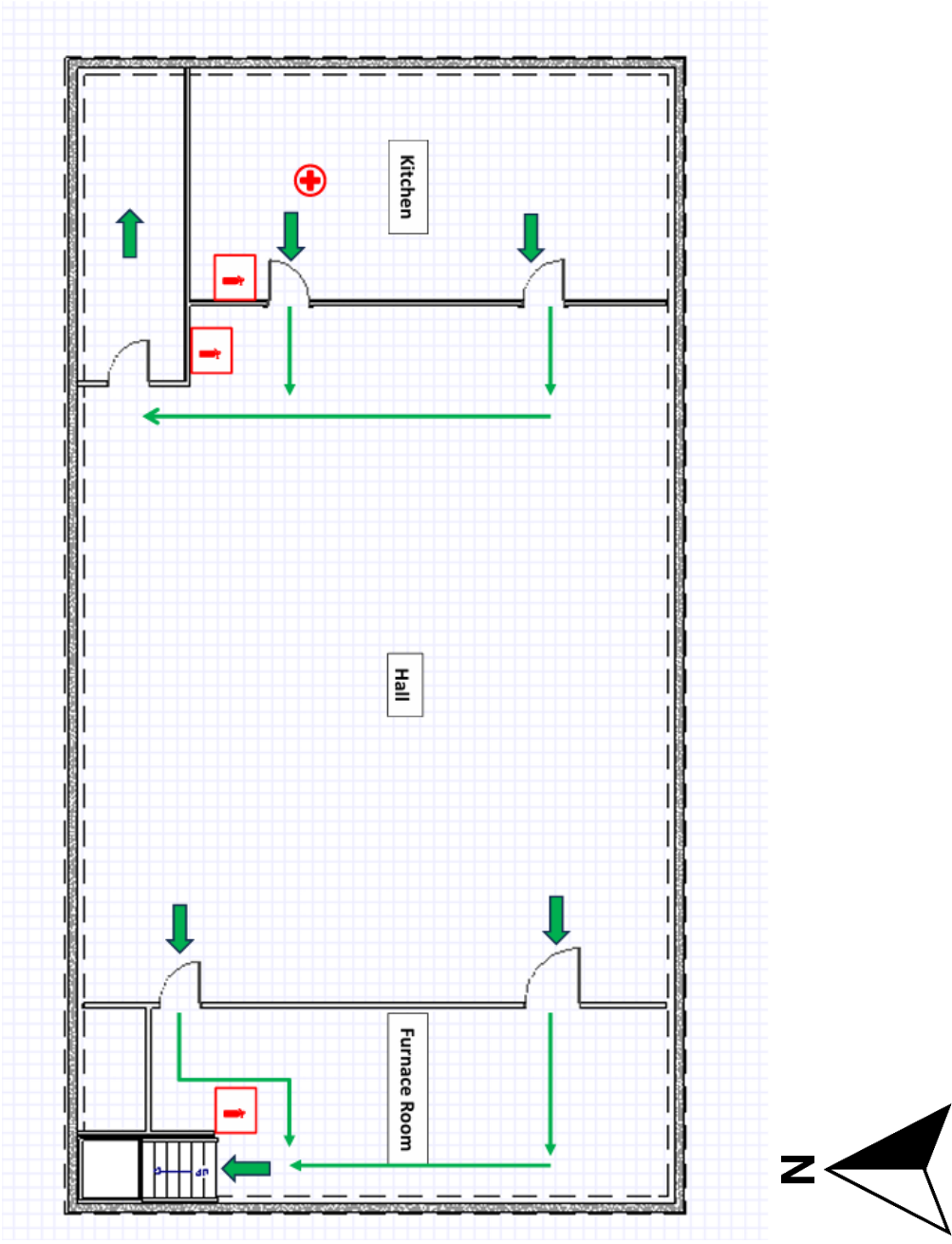


Oroville Grange Hall #985

622 Fir Street
 Oroville, WA

First Floor

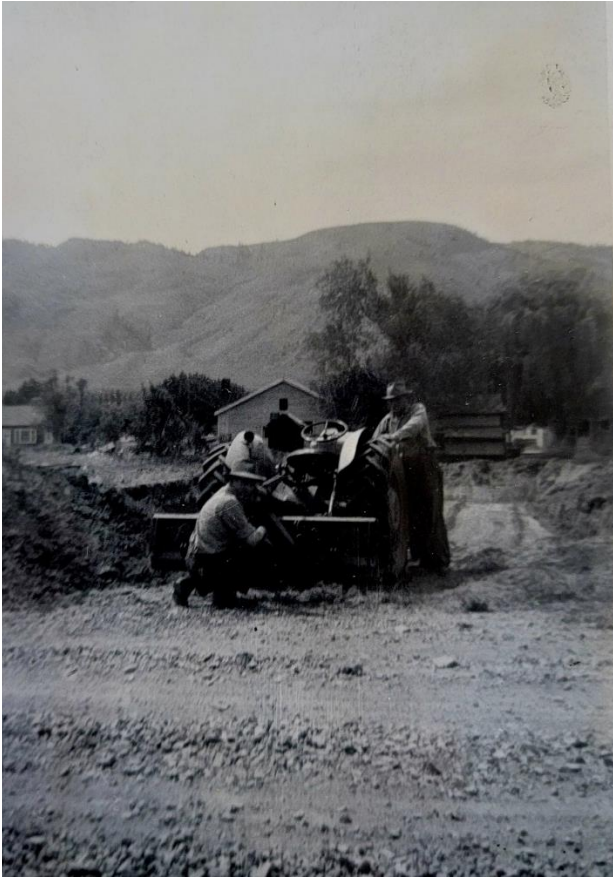
Floor Plan – First Floor



Oroville Grange Hall #985

622 Fir Street
 Oroville, WA

Floor Plan – Basement



Breaking ground for grange Hall - Grange Archives, 06/01/1956.



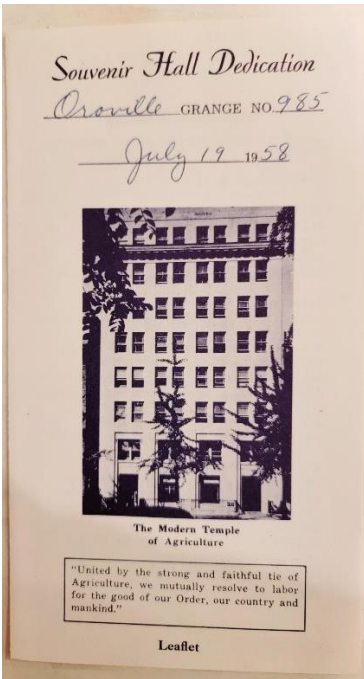
Grange Archives, Façade Wall Construction, 1957.



Grange Archives, Completed Hall - August 1957.



Completed Hall - Grange Archives - August 1957.



Responsive Reading

Lead by chaplain. All take part in reading the responses.

CHAPLAIN—Praise ye the Lord.
 ALL—The Lord's name be praised.
 CHAPLAIN—Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us,
 ALL—But to Thy name be the praise.
 CHAPLAIN—And for Thy loving mercy.
 ALL—And for Thy truth's sake.
 CHAPLAIN—Thou visitest the earth and blessest it.
 ALL—Thou makest it very plenteous.
 CHAPLAIN—Thou enrichest it with the full river of God.
 ALL—For so Thou providest the earth.
 CHAPLAIN—Thou waterest her furrows.
 ALL—Thou sendest rain into the little valley.
 CHAPLAIN—Thou makest it soft with the drops of rain.
 ALL—And blessest the increase of it.
 CHAPLAIN—Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness.
 ALL—The clouds drop fatness.
 CHAPLAIN—Thy folds shall be full of sheep.
 ALL—The valleys shall stand so thick with corn,
 CHAPLAIN—That they shall laugh and sing.
 ALL—Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us,
 CHAPLAIN—But to Thy name be the praise.
 ALL—And for Thy loving mercy,
 CHAPLAIN—And for Thy truth's sake, Amen.
 ALL—Amen.

After Song

PROCESSION

Dedication Ceremony

Remarks by Everett Easley, Mayor of Oroville

Vocal Solo- Fred Holmes

Talk by A. Lars Nelson Master, Washington State Grange

Accordion Solo Katherine Leslie

Introduction of Guests

Announcements

Closing Song

Grange Hall dedication program – July 19, 1958.



Community Bingo to Benefit All4Paws – Okanogan 501(c)(3) on September 13, 2024.

BINGO at the Grange!

OHS Future Farmers of America

becoming what the future needs



Oroville Grange, 622 Fir Street
Nov. 8 at 7 p.m.
(Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)
\$10 for 10 cards



Oroville Grange, Facebook Post for November 8, 2024 FFA Community Fundraiser.

This Month Featuring:
Harvey Swanson & Sandy Vaughn

JAVA LIVE

1ST FRIDAY
COFFEE HOUSE

AT THE
OROVILLE GRANGE
APRIL 7 2023 6:30 TO 9:30 PM
622 Fir Street Oroville WA

Come enjoy Music, Coffee,
Treats and More

Boots and Scoots Thursdays

Every Thursday from Dec 7 thru Dec 28

Line Dancing at the Oroville Grange

Come Join Vicki, Walt, Naomi and Dave
for some Good Old Fashioned Line Dancing Fun

Thursdays at 7PM in the Upstairs Grange Hall
622 Fir Street Oroville WA

Happy Halloween Bingo
to Benefit

The Oroville Grange

Wear a Costume!

Oroville Grange Hall, 622 Fir Street
Friday, October 11 at 7pm
(doors open at 6:30 pm)

\$10 for Ten Cards

Support our Food Pantry

OROVILLE GRANGE #985 VALENTINE'S DAY BINGO
Drawing February 14th at the Valentine's Day Bingo from 7-9 PM

RAFFLE BASKET TO BENEFIT THE OROVILLE FOOD PANTRY!
TICKETS \$5 EACH

THE BASKET INCLUDES:

- Valentine's Day Card for your sweetie
- Frontier Foods \$50 gift certificate
- Brick House TWO \$25 gift cards (\$50 TOTAL)
- Chevron Station \$75 and \$50 gift certificates (\$125 TOTAL)
- Mosaic Tile Mirror
- Turtle chocolates
- Chandon Brut
- Prosecco
- Dove chocolates
- Russel Stover pecan delights

Posters for Community Events.



Carranza Quinceañera – August 5, 2024.



Community Meeting with Tom Gwin, President of WA State Grange Association – March 19, 2024.



Holiday Bingo Night – December 14, 2024.

Current Images



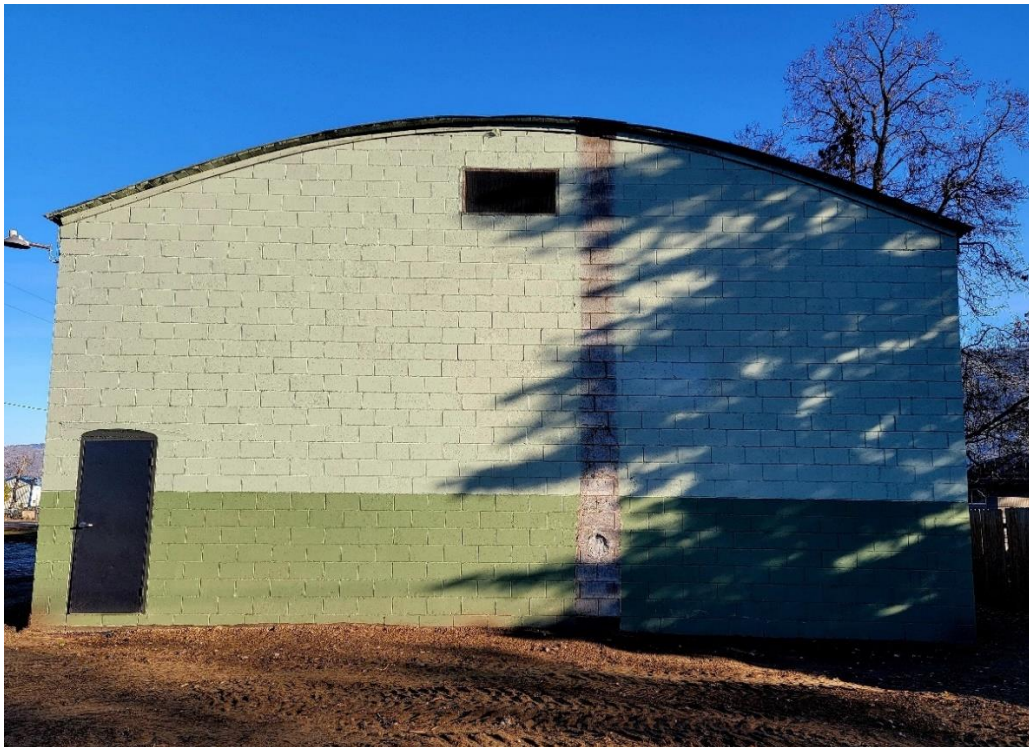
Main Facade



North Elevation looking south.



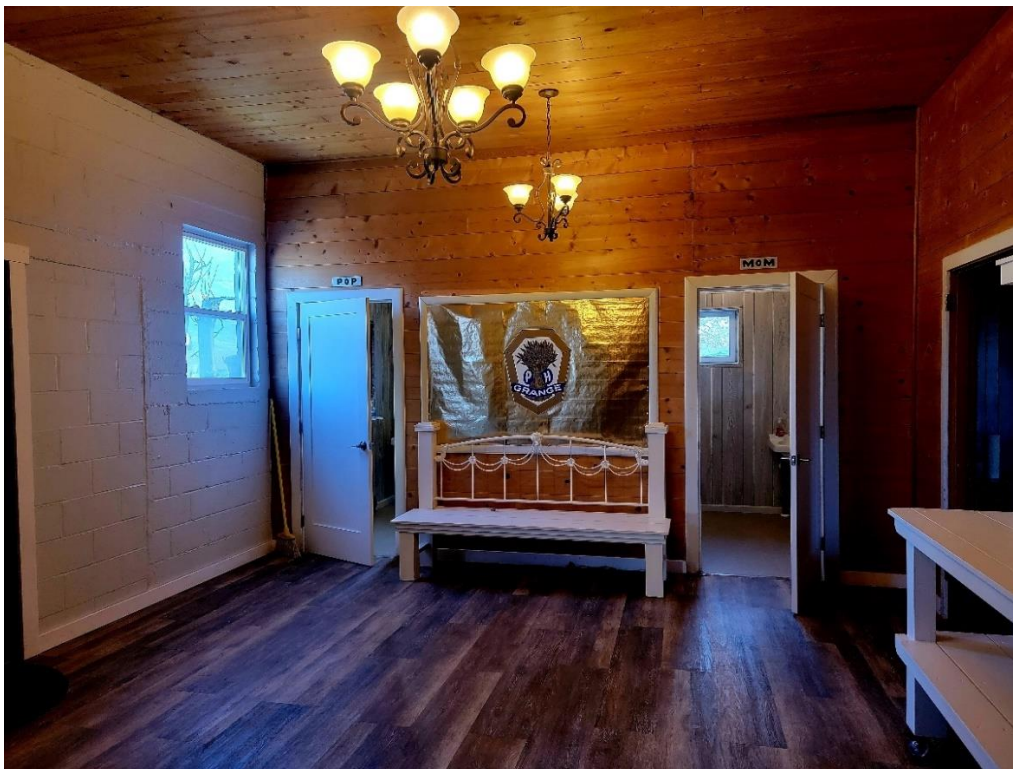
Southeast corner.



Rear façade showing "ghost" location of removed chimney.



Main hall, view to west.



Entrance foyer, view to south showing restrooms.



Entrance foyer, view to northwest showing entry to main hall and basement stair access.



Basement dining area.



Basement dining area.



Basement kitchen.



Basement kitchen, view to southwest.