

To D.C.
1-25-95

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 Litchfield Elks Lodge No. 654

Other names/site number Litchfield Elks Club Building

2. Location

Street & number 424 North Monroe Street not for publication

City or town Litchfield vicinity

State Illinois code IL county Montgomery code 135 zip code 62056

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.)

William L. White, SHPO 12-16-94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State of 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:

- 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): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone, walls Brick

roof Terra cotta

other Terra cotta

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1923

Significant Dates

1923

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Stiegemeier, Oliver W., Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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:

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property Less than one acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1, 6	2 7 0 7 5 0	4 3 3, 9 6, 7, 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan M. Baldwin

organization Baldwin Historic Properties date September 29, 1994

street & number 300 West Grand #306 telephone 312/321-0707

city or town Chicago state IL zip code 60610

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

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. Clifford Crispens, DuraCraft Industries, Inc.

street & number 110 Oak Street telephone 217/839-2151

city or town Gillespie state IL zip code 62033

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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Litchfield Elks Lodge No. 654

7. Description

The Litchfield Elks Lodge No. 654 is a three story building facing west towards the public square at the southeast corner of Union and Monroe Streets. The building is rectangular filling most of the lot, approximately 108' by 65', with the long axis from west to east. While the rear east elevation abuts the alley and property line, there is a small area of lawn on both the north and south sides. On the north, it extends about fifteen feet to the sidewalk of Union Street. On the south it extends thirty-six feet to the property line, where a brick three flat building of about the same vintage abuts the property line. The remainder of the block consists of a new building and a turn-of-the-century building at the next corner. The public square, called Library Square, is generally surrounded by commercial buildings dating from the 1880's through the 1920's, with some alterations and a few intrusions.

The Elks Lodge is built on a slightly raised basement, constructed with a steel frame and loadbearing brick walls on a stone foundation. It is faced with variegated rough textured brownish-red brick with limestone and terra cotta trim. The elaborate trim of the west facade continues around to include one bay on each of the north and south elevations. The variegated face brick continues around all elevations of the building. The roof is low pitched, with a tiled mansard roof extending across the front facade and around the first bay of each side, and is punctuated with a gabled roof dormer window above each front facade bay. The Elks Lodge construction was begun in 1922 when the previous lodge had outgrown its space and completed in 1923. It was designed to provide lounge and meeting space, dining room, guest rooms, and a social hall.

The Elks Lodge, has one main street facade on the west that wraps around both the northwest and southwest corners of the building. The form of the building is clearly that of a social hall, with its simple rectangular shape and well defined use of the three stories. The style of the building could best be characterized as 1920's Classical Revival, which was typical of and well suited to a fraternal organizations at the time. The front facade is symmetrical, and lavished with classical details rendered in terra cotta. The fenestration pattern reflects the use of the building, with elegant fanlights above large windows at the first floor lobby and lounge areas, smaller windows at the second floor guest rooms, and ornate two story windows wrapping around the building at the two story social hall space.

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The classical entrance to the building is centrally located under a porch which spans the three central bays of the five bay front facade. The original double entry doors have been replaced by modern steel framed doors, but the segmental arched surround with ten-light transom remains. The terra cotta surround is decorated with a rope twist pattern. On the first floor each of the other four bays and the first bays on the south and north elevations have a floor to ceiling set of doors beneath a multi-paned fanlight, with a molded terra cotta surround surmounted with a medallion. On the two outside bays of the front facade, a graceful wrought iron step out balcony was attached. One of these remains, in poor condition. A limestone belt course marks the division of the first floor from the basement, and a wider band of limestone defines the base at the ground. The basement windows, all around the building, consist of sets of two short multi-paned windows.

The porch, which serves as a sort of classical portico, is constructed of the same face brick, with four sturdy brick columns supporting the three segmental arched openings and an elaborate terra cotta balustrade. At the central bay, the balustrade consists of a terra cotta cornice decoration that featured an Elk head with the letters B.P.O.E. The Elk head has been removed, but the letters remain. The balustrade is in fair condition, with some pieces of the top rail having fallen off. Each column is topped with a terra cotta cap and bold arrow design, and is surmounted by an urn. A terra cotta beltcourse extends across the front facade on either side of the balustrade at the two outer bays and around the corner. There are decorative panels that delineate the second floor. Surrounding the porch stairs is a solid rail of diagonally laid brick which is capped with terra cotta. A small portion of the brick has fallen apart, but has not been lost.

The second and third floors are treated alike on the front facade, consisting of trabeated wood eight-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills. The two outer tiers of windows and those at the north and south corners feature a terra cotta decorative spandrel panel and surround with quoins that unites the two levels of windows visually. Each of these tiers is framed by a pair of terra cotta pilasters rising from the base of the second floor to the cornice line above the third floor. The three tiers of windows above the portico are undecorated. Just above the windows at the third floor level is a decorative terra cotta belt course, which defines the base of the cornice. On the diagonally laid brick entablature are alternate corbelled brick and terra cotta diamond shaped insets. A limestone belt course divides the third from the fourth floor, which is really the space in the pitched roof. Its base, about three feet tall, consists of the ornate metal bracketed overhanging cornice which defines the roof line.

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Across the front of the building is a red clay tiled mansard roof, in good condition. Punctuating this roof line are five dormers with segmental arched windows. Each is surrounded by a steep pitched gable in brick with terra cotta trim. The mansard is decorative only, extending just around the northwest and southwest corners of the building. Behind that, the pitched roof is covered in rolled asphalt.

The fenestration pattern on the north, east and south elevations is substantially alike, with the exception of a few bays and miscellaneous windows. On the north elevation, the bay just east of the corner bay has no opening on the first floor due to the fireplace at that location in the interior. The third and fourth floor levels of this bay each contain a window like the second floor windows, a single double-hung eight-over-one light window. The second floor windows are the same all around the building, each bay containing a single trabeated double-hung window of eight-over-one light configuration. Some of the lower sash are missing, but the windows are otherwise extant though in poor condition. At the first floor level, the next bay to the east has the set of two windows with fanlight configuration, and the one east of that has a set of two trabeated double-hung windows with six-over-one light configuration. The rear (east) elevation at the first floor level, the original openings have been filled with glass block. The historical photograph shows that these openings contained a set of two double-hung windows in a six-over-one configuration with a transom overhead, just like the windows that are extant on the south elevation.

At the third and fourth level of the eastern five bays of the north elevation, continuing across the rear elevation then west to include four bays of the south elevation, the original two story arched openings have been bricked in. However, the limestone sills remain and the brick is set-back and of a different color so that the openings are clearly articulated. The historical photograph shows that these windows consisted of a set of long windows with an overhead fanlight, like the windows on the first floor facade. On the south elevation, there is some missing sash at the first and second floor levels, but otherwise the windows are extant. The second bay from the front facade on the south elevation is a side entrance which leads into the stairwell. This entrance consists of a door with surrounding sidelights under a flat topped transom that extends the full width of the door and sidelights. The windows above this tier are offset due to the staircase, and are single openings with sash currently missing. To the east of this bay, the first floor window is a single double-hung window of six-over-one configuration with a six-light transom. The other bays at the first floor level contain the original pattern of sets of double-hung six-

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over-one windows under a transom. There is some missing lower sash, but otherwise the windows are all there.

On the interior, the first floor main hall at the northwest corner contained an elegantly finished space and still retains much detail, including interior woodwork, pilasters, decorative ceiling beams, ceiling medallion, and fireplace. Much of the woodwork is mahogany, though painted over. Many of these features have suffered deterioration, but are repairable. The entry foyer, which may not have been an original space, has received a dropped ceiling and inexpensive panelling, with a linoleum floor. Other original spaces which have since been altered, included the dining room at the northeast corner, the kitchen at the southeast corner, and billiard room and ladies lounge, location unknown. The windows of the dining room area are those that have been blocked in. Some articulation of ceiling beams and wall pilasters remain, but otherwise the spaces are empty. Remnants of the kitchen remain. Between the northwest corner lounge and the dining room, there are the remains of a lowered ceiling with a large curved soffit. The original dining room was known as the Elks Cafe, and for some time served breakfast, lunch and dinner to Elks Lodge members, their families, and friends.

The original staircase exists in a stairhall along the south wall of the building. It is constructed of wood, with decorative newel posts and plain balusters. At the second and third floor levels, the stairs has been walled from the main space, probably to meet fire codes. Also, the spaces beneath the stairs which were originally open have been built in for storage. The second floor contained eighteen sleeping rooms surrounding a wide corridor. The design of the rooms is simple, with each two rooms sharing a bath between them. While the basic floor plan of the second floor remains, the materials are in poor condition due to weather infiltration.

The third floor space was one large two story social hall with a mezzanine. The mezzanine, taking about a third of the hall at the west end of the space, is walled off on the end bays and across the third floor level but features decorative wall moldings and two sets of double doors leading into the space beyond. At the fourth floor level, there are three central open bays echoing the portico treatment at the front of the exterior. These openings are supported by thick square columns with bracketed tops and paneled bases, and are in poor to fair condition. Around the perimeter simple pilasters delineate the building's bays. The pilasters are surmounted by a cornice molding, and decorative beams originating at each pilaster criss-cross the ceiling. The pilasters and beams are

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in mostly deteriorated condition, as are the walls of this space. The floors throughout the building are of hardwood, but much of it, particularly the third floor, has suffered water damage and is poor condition. The mezzanine space is not tall, consisting mostly of the ceiling trusses for the mansard roof, which form a picturesque pattern against the nine-over-one light arched dormer windows.

In the basement of the building was a bowling alley and a swimming pool. The swimming pool was closed after a few years due to the expense, and is in extremely poor condition. It was a small pool in a room that appears to have had no detailing. The bowling alley was in use by the community for many years. Much of it remains, though it is also in poor condition.

Attached to the south elevation of the building at the east end is a two story addition, constructed at an unknown time. It is attached by means of a narrow L shape providing an interior link. It is constructed of brick very similar to, but not exactly like the building, although the link portion is faced with a white glazed brick, probably to admit more light into the building. The addition measures sixteen by thirty-nine feet, and has single window openings with missing sash. It appears to have been used as an extension to the kitchen on the first floor, and bathrooms or bedrooms on the second floor. While the exterior may be structurally repairable, the interior is in very poor condition.

The integrity of the exterior of the building is very good. The west front facade is virtually intact, and the structure and brick work are in good condition. There is some deterioration of terra cotta, but it is repairable. Although many of the windows are in states of deterioration primarily due to the vacancy and neglect of the building over the past seven years, all of the masonry window openings remain clearly articulated and there have been no new openings cut in. Many of the original windows are extant, including all of those on the front facade. The building maintains its original location and setting facing the town square, and appears today much as it did in the photographs when it was newly completed in 1923.

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8. Statement of Significance

The Litchfield Elks Lodge No. 654 meets Criterion C for architecture for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a prominent and locally significant example of 1920's Classical Revival architecture. Both its function as a fraternal lodge/meeting hall and its architectural sophistication are reflected in its form and facade. In 1921, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Litchfield Lodge #654, had the ambition and the means to construct a building that would reflect their aspirations, ideals, and standing in the community. Completed in early 1923, its period of significance, the lodge remained at the center of Litchfield social life until the 1950's. The building is an excellent example of the fusion of popular architectural elements from the time, including that of Beaux Arts Classicism with 1920's eclecticism and technology.

According to James R. Nicholson who wrote the History of the Order of Elks, 1868-1952, "The organization of lodges, clubs and societies was the result of the need and desire for fellowship, association and advanced status. These were to be derived through the power of association exemplified in group traditions, symbols, titles, ceremony and ritual which were the characteristics of fraternities through the long years." The period of post-Civil War years had few social outlets for young men. Also, the explosive population growth in New York City at that time, and the increase of leisure resulting from shorter work days were responsible for the development of many frivolous pub games and social clubs. Organized recreation such as baseball, football and tennis had not been developed, as it was not until more than a decade after the Civil War that these sports began to appear as national and municipal pastimes.

American Elkdom had its beginnings in New York City in 1867 with one of these social groups known as "The Jolly Corks." A small group of actors had met weekly for some time for social purposes and had selected this name for themselves. The inspiration for this group had come from Charles A. Vivian, an English singer and actor, who had arrived in New York City from Southampton, England. The initial purpose of the group was music and song. The name "The Jolly Corks" came from the game of corks which they played, by which they determined who was left with the bill for refreshments. As the group grew an initiation procedure was planned, usually involving pranks with corks. In 1868, after attending the funeral of one of their friends, the suggestion was made that they should change their social club into a protective and benevolent society.

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It was decided on February, 1868 that "The Jolly Corks" should organize as a lodge on a benevolent and fraternal plan with a ritual and a new name. A constitution was drafted. While waiting for tardy members to arrive at a meeting, those present began thinking of names for the organization, which included "buffalos" and "beavers". At the meeting place was an elk head. This inspired name was strengthened by a description of the qualities of the elk, as the largest existing species of the deer family, and with large antlers, ready for the defense of itself, its young and home. They read the account of the elk in Buffon's Natural History as "fleet of foot, timorous of doing wrong, avoiding all combat except in fighting for the female and in defense of the young and helpless and weak." This description influenced the decision in favor of the elk name. The organization was formalized on February 16, 1868. Charles A. Vivian was elected the first "Right Honorable Primo" and ritualistic work was added. The order grew rapidly, and by 1871 there were plans for a lodge in Philadelphia. Therefore, on February 12, 1871, the New York group was designated as the Grand Lodge No. 1, allowing for additional chapters, or lodges. Subsequent lodges were established in San Francisco, No. 3; Chicago, No. 4; Cincinnati, No. 5; etc.

The first constitution adopted on May 17, 1868 contained this preamble:

The undersigned members of the Theatrical, Minstrel, Musical, Equestrian, and Literary Professions and others who sympathize with an approve of the object in view (hereinafter stated in the Constitution) do hereby organize an order to promote, protect and enhance the welfare and happiness of each other.

It was not long before members of other professions and occupations wished to join the group, and finally this membership restriction was removed, although the interest of theatrical persons continued to be active.

Later the organization was incorporated as the "Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America." Its objects were "benevolent, social and altruistic; to promote and encourage manly fellowship and kindly intercourse; and to aid, protect and assist its members and their families." Through the years, millions have spent on philanthropic endeavors particularly including education and children's diseases.

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Litchfield Elks Lodge No. 654 was instituted on February 11, 1901, at the Pythian Hall. On the following May it moved to a hall on East Kirkham Street across from Library Park, where it stayed until 1923. By 1921 its quarters had become cramped and the property on the southeast corner of Union Avenue and Monroe Street was acquired.

The Elks' floated approximately \$125,000 in bonds for the construction of the new hall, a considerable amount for a building in the early 1920's. The members handled the sale of the bonds themselves. Groundbreaking was held in the spring of 1922. The building was dedicated with a three day celebration on February, 5, 6 and 7, 1923, which was attended by over 900 people from throughout central Illinois. The Elks Club of Springfield brought its members via three special railroad cars on the Illinois Traction System. With local pride the Litchfield News Herald reported, "To say that the place is beautiful is but putting it mildly. It is so well arranged, so splendidly laid out and nothing lacking, it is more like a big city hotel than a Elks home in Litchfield. . . It is certainly a grand place. It is the most magnificent and splendid Elks' home in the State of Illinois." That statement was qualified by adding, "The size of the lodge considered."

In March 1941, members burned the last of the paid off bonds, marking the liquidation of the building's debt. It continued as a center of Litchfield social life and was at the forefront of every movement for the benefit of the community until the 1950's, and remained as the site of many community activities until the lodge surrendered its charter and abandoned the building in 1987. Since that time it has remained vacant, serving as a Halloween haunted house for local children.

The Classical Revival style dates from the 1890's through the first quarter of the Twentieth Century. It is based on a loose synthesis of elements from both the Greek and Roman orders, though Greek is more prevalent in the style. Classical Revival architecture is generally characterized by symmetrically arranged buildings, often with a certain degree of monumentality, usually employing columns or pilasters, often porticos, and details such as quoins, balustrades, and entablatures. Beaux Arts Classicism is distinguished by an exuberance of detail and variety of finishes, and often features projecting facades, enriched moldings and free standing statuary.

Architect Oliver W. Stiegemeyer, with the firm of Kennerly & Stiegemeyer of St. Louis, designed the building in a 1920's Classical Revival style, drawing primarily from Beaux Arts influences with hints of Georgian inspiration, executed with a feel for early 1920's

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technology and eclecticism. Beaux Arts Classicism in the early Twentieth Century was a kind of historical eclecticism which became ubiquitous in Illinois following the Columbian Exposition of 1893 and lingered long thereafter. It tended to be particularly popular for public buildings with its sense of formalism and symmetry, but it freely borrowed details from earlier eras. It was a style frequently chosen for quasi-public buildings and those for patriotic organizations, such as fraternal lodges.

One notices first the Elks Lodge's formality, projected primarily from its strong symmetry. It features the five part facade composition common to Beaux Arts buildings, with a dominant, and projecting, central mass. All the parts of the front facade, which loosely synthesizes elements of Greek and Roman provenance, are clearly articulated and balanced. The porch, or portico, features three arches and is topped with a classical balustrade. The corner windows of the second and third floors are each framed by a pair of pilasters rendered in terra cotta. The building also has a pronounced, bracketed cornice. At the same time, the red brick face with white trim hints at the Georgian spirit, which is enhanced by the floor to ceiling fanlighted windows at both the first and third floors, and by the many multi-paned windows.

Above the cornice line, the building takes on a decidedly eclectic nature, with the mansard roof covered in red Spanish tiles and punctuated with five dormer windows. The dormers are topped by steep pitched gables with terra cotta trim that do not appear at all classical in design. In addition, the use of variegated dark brick was very fashionable for the early 1920s, and there was much experimentation with terra cotta at the time. Used in the later Nineteenth Century primarily for fireproofing and then for ornamentation, terra cotta could be manufactured to imitate stone and other materials. Until the 1920's the color of terra cotta was primarily off-white and it was created in traditional designs. By the time the Elks Lodge was built, architects were discovering fanciful uses of terra cotta that allowed their post-war exuberance a free reign. One of the earliest and most celebrated buildings to embody this new architectural mode was the Wrigley Building in Chicago, built in 1921. In the Litchfield Elks Lodge, terra cotta was used to represent both traditional design and distinctly 1920's design, as in the patterns topping the porch columns and the dormer windows.

The site of the town of Litchfield had been purchased by representatives of a railroad syndicate in 1853. The town was named after Electus Bachus Litchfield, one of at least four sons of syndicate owner Elisha Litchfield, who came to the site in 1855 and was the

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town's second mayor. Litchfield donated land for the construction of the Michigan and Southern Railroad's machine shops and terminal. The coming of the Michigan and Southern Railroad and its shops brought in more business, by 1856 Litchfield began an era of industrial growth to supplement its agricultural businesses. Stores, hotels and banks began to open. Litchfield grew as a railroad center, at one time being on four major lines. One of these was the Wabash Railroad, which was a major line to the great coal areas of southern Illinois. The Wabash Railroad had a roundhouse near the Litchfield coal mine. Litchfield also remained as a center for agriculture in the surrounding area and continued to have an active business center. Along with these activities came social and fraternal organizations, as well as trade unions.

At the time the Elks Lodge was built there were other fraternal organizations existing in Litchfield, such as the Moose, Masons, Odd Fellows, and Knights of Columbus. The Elks Lodge was the first building to be built specifically for and occupied totally by one of these organizations. Most groups met in community meeting halls or rented in the upper floor of another building. After the Elks Lodge opened in 1923, many other organizations such as the Litchfield Woman's Club and the American Legion met in the Elks Lodge hall. The Masons purchased the 1880's Opera House in 1914 and occupied rooms in the upper floor until it burned down in 1922. In 1924, they built a fine new two story building, which is otherwise of similar size and form to the Elks Lodge. It is Classical Revival in style also, though much more austere and devoid of detail. All of its window openings have been filled with glass block. There is no other fraternal or organizational building extant in the Litchfield area from this period, and none that reflects the 1920's Classical Revival style.

There are a number of other Classical Revival buildings in Litchfield from the early twentieth century, most prominently the Carnegie Public Library completed in 1905 and the Post Office 1910, both of which are restrained Classical Revival architecture in spirit. The Carnegie Library is a monumental building at the center of the public square, with a central two story section of smooth stone finish framed by quoins and a heavy front gabled pediment. There are symmetrically placed pavilions on either side, which continue the heavy entablature. With the exception of new windows, the library maintains excellent integrity. The Post Office, at the southeast corner of Kirkham and Monroe Streets, is a small but pristine example of well proportioned Classical Revival architecture rendered in smooth pale brick and stone. Its classical detailed slightly projecting entry is surrounded by attached columns, while pilasters delineate each of the other bays. The

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Litchfield Elks Lodge No. 654

building is crowned by a balustrade. The exterior has very good integrity. While excellent examples of their type, neither of these buildings offer the exuberant 1920's interpretation of classicism.

Two interesting commercial examples are located at 316 and 322 North Madison Street. 316 North Madison is a tiny gem of beautiful brick work with two prominent pediments on either side of a Romanesque arched entry. A set of two, nine-over-one windows under each pediment complete the design. Next door at 322 North Madison is a one story building that is probably the closest in design to the Elks Lodge of any remaining building in Litchfield. It is a 1920s Classical Revival building on a diminutive scale, rendered in red brick with terra cotta trim. Originally symmetrical in design, it has had an addition to the south. Above the entry with its curved drip cap is a bracketed overhanging eave supporting a red Spanish tile cornice. Both 316 and 322 North Madison have good integrity on the exterior. While 322 North Madison has some similar design features to the Elk Lodge, it is not of the same scale or prominence.

Among other important buildings from the 1920's in Litchfield is the two story Classical Revival styled First National Bank at 322 North State Street. Other than new windows it retains good integrity. While there are many classical details on commercial buildings surrounding the public square, they are generally from an earlier period and are distinctly commercial, with storefronts at the first floor level. Among the buildings of the area that can be considered Classical Revival in style, the Elks Lodge stands out as the most distinguished and significant of those from the 1920's.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Major Bibliographical References

Detweiler, Meade, An Account of the Origin and Early History of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the U.S.A., 1898.

Hamilton, Esley. (St. Louis County Dept. of Parks and Recreation) Telephone Interview, September 29, 1994

Jackson, David. Telephone Interview, September 2, 1994.

The Litchfield Centennial, Inc., The Centennial History of Litchfield, Illinois. St. Louis: The Bethany Press, 1953.

The Litchfield News Herald, February 6,7,8, 1923.

Manning, Mike (Historian and Immediate Past President, BPOE), Telephone Interview, September 28, 1994.

Nicholson, James R., History of the Order of Elks 1868 - 1952. New York: 1953.

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National Park Service

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10. Verbal Boundary Description

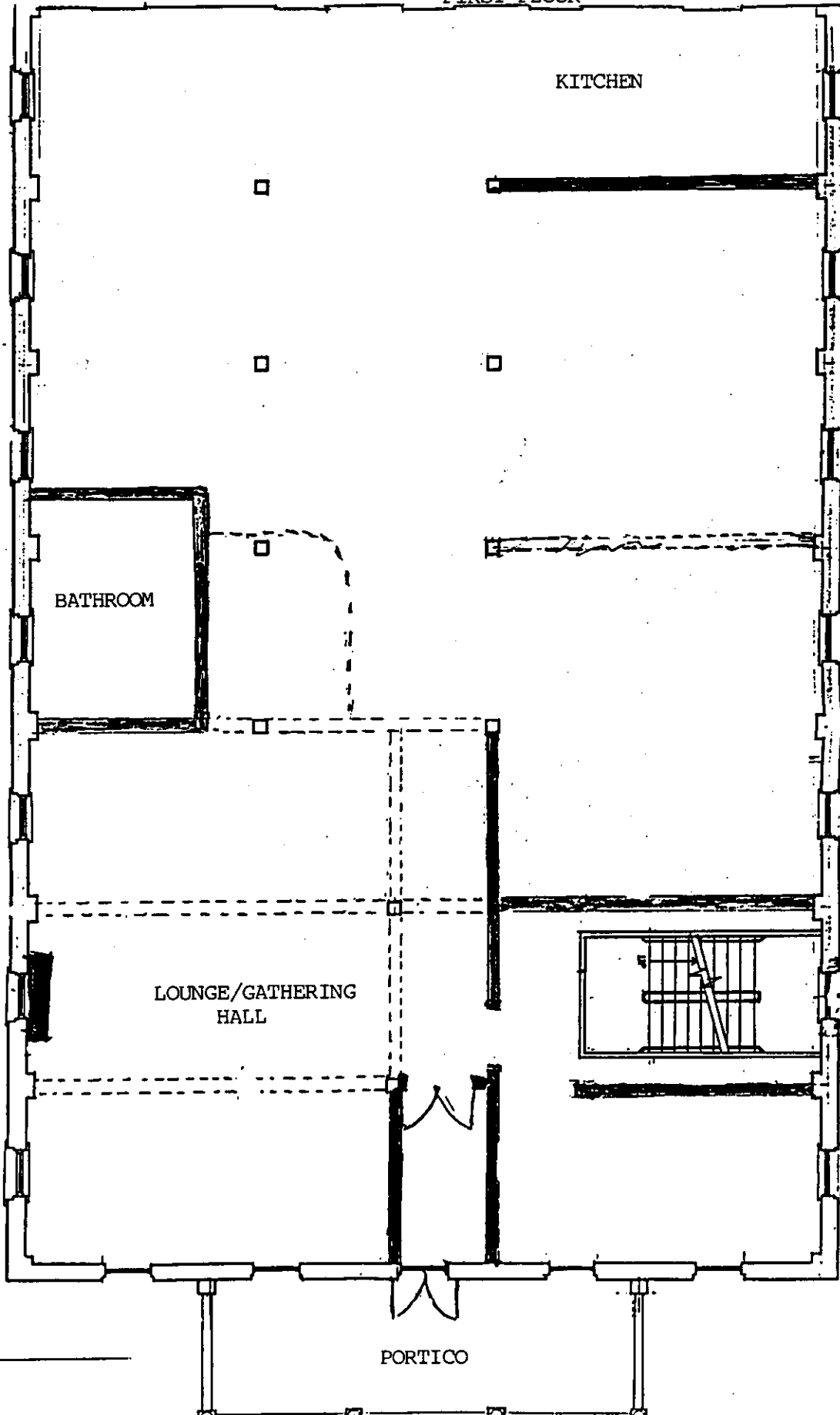
Beginning at the point inside the sidewalk at the southeast corner of Monroe and Union Streets, proceed east 120 feet to the inside edge of the alley, then south 116 feet, then west 120 feet to the inside point of the sidewalk, then 116 feet north to the original point.

Boundary Justification

The above described lot constitutes the property historically associated with the building. The building extends to the property line on the east, within 36 feet on the south, 12 feet on the west, and 15 feet on the north.

LITCHFIELD ELKS LODGE NO. 654

FIRST FLOOR



KITCHEN

BATHROOM

LOUNGE/GATHERING
HALL

PORTICO

N ←



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. Box 37127

Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. For further information call 202/343-9542.

MAR 10 1995

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 2/27/95 THROUGH 3/03/95

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number NHL Status, Action, Date, Multiple Name

ALABAMA, JEFFERSON COUNTY, Downtown Birmingham Retail and Theatre Historic District, Roughly bounded by 3rd Ave. North, 20th St. North, Morris Ave., and 17th St. North, Birmingham, 89000315, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 3/03/95

ALABAMA, JEFFERSON COUNTY, Glen Iris Park Historic District, 1-20 Glen Iris Park, Birmingham, 84000628, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 3/03/95

ALABAMA, JEFFERSON COUNTY, Loveman, Joseph, & Loeb Department Store, 214-224 19th St., N. Birmingham, 83002971, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 3/03/95

ARIZONA, COCHISE COUNTY, Rucker Canyon Archeological District, Address Restricted, Douglas vicinity, 95000157, NOMINATION, 3/03/95

CALIFORNIA, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, Foxtrot Petroglyph Site, Address Restricted, Twentynine Palms vicinity, 95000044, NOMINATION, 2/23/95

COLORADO, JEFFERSON COUNTY, Calvary Episcopal Church, 1300 Arapahoe St., Golden, 95000186, NOMINATION, 3/03/95

DELAWARE, NEW CASTLE COUNTY, Merestone, 1610--1620 Yeatman's Mill Rd., Mill Creek Hundred (Delaware); Yeatman's Station Rd., New Garden Township (Pennsylvania), Newark vicinity, 95000093, NOMINATION, 3/02/95

GEORGIA, COBB COUNTY, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, 2 mi. W of Marietta, Marietta vicinity, 66000063, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 1/09/95

GEORGIA, OCONEE COUNTY, Daniell, William, House, Epps Bridge Rd., 3 1/2 mi. NW of Watkinsville, Watkinsville vicinity, 94001638, NOMINATION, 2/13/95

ILLINOIS, LAKE COUNTY, Bennett, Edward H., House and Studio, 89 E. Deerpath, Lake Forest, 95000196, NOMINATION, 3/03/95

INDIANA, CLINTON COUNTY, Kirklin Public Library, 115 N. Main St., Kirklin, 95000206, NOMINATION, 3/03/95

INDIANA, ELKHART COUNTY, Puterbaugh, Joseph and Sarah, Farm, 59123 Co. Rd. 9, Elkhart vicinity, 95000198, NOMINATION, 3/03/95

INDIANA, FOUNTAIN COUNTY, Bethel Church and Graveyard, Bethel Rd., 0.5 mi. W of jct. with Riverside Rd., Attica vicinity, 95000203, NOMINATION, 3/03/95

INDIANA, FRANKLIN COUNTY, Franklin United Brethren Church, Old, Jct. of Franklin Church Rd. and IN 101, .5 mi. N of Fox Run Rd., Brookeville vicinity; 95000201, NOMINATION, 3/03/95

INDIANA, FRANKLIN COUNTY, Snow Hill Covered Bridge, Snow Hill Rd. over Johnson Fork, Rockdale, 95000208, NOMINATION, 3/03/95

INDIANA, HAMILTON COUNTY, Union High Academy Historic District, 434 S. Union St., Westfield, 95000209, NOMINATION, 3/03/95

INDIANA, HENDRICKS COUNTY, Kellum, Noah and Hannah Hadley, House, 7290 S. Co. Rd. 1050 E, Camby vicinity, 95000204, NOMINATION, 3/03/95

INDIANA, KNOX COUNTY, Rose Hill Farmstead, Co. Rd. cel0s, 0.25 mi. N of jct. with Old Wheatland Rd., Vincennes vicinity, 95000202, NOMINATION, 3/03/95

INDIANA, MARION COUNTY, Indiana Oxygen Company, 435 S. Delaware St., Indianapolis, 87000545, PROPOSED MOVE, 2/24/95

INDIANA, MARION COUNTY, Indiana State Library and Historical Building, 140 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, 95000207, NOMINATION, 3/03/95

INDIANA, MIAMI COUNTY, Converse Depot, 203 E. Railroad St., Converse, 95000205, NOMINATION, 3/03/95

INDIANA, WABASH COUNTY, McNamee--Ford House, 536 N. Wabash St., Wabash, 95000199, NOMINATION, 3/03/95

LOUISIANA, EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, Peralta, Sarah, Archeological Site, Address Restricted, Baton Rouge vicinity, 95000134, NOMINATION, 3/02/95

LOUISIANA, TERREBONNE PARISH, Cook, Herman Albert, House, 515 W. Main St., Houma, 95000107, NOMINATION, 2/24/95

MISSISSIPPI, HINDS COUNTY, North Manor Apartments, 909 North St., Jackson, 95000177, NOMINATION, 3/03/95

MISSISSIPPI, LAWRENCE COUNTY, Monticello Consolidated School, 125 E. Broad St., Monticello, 91000879, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 3/03/95

MISSISSIPPI, MADISON COUNTY, Natchez Trace, Old, and Choctaw Agency Site, Between I-55 and Livingston Rd., W of Ridgeland, Ridgeland vicinity, 94001579, NOMINATION, 2/02/95

MISSISSIPPI, MARION COUNTY, Marion County Courthouse and Jail, Courthouse Sq., Columbia, 95000178, NOMINATION, 3/03/95

MISSISSIPPI, WARREN COUNTY, Hullum, Joel and Margaret, House, 749 Mallet Rd., Vicksburg vicinity, 84002358, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 3/03/95

MISSISSIPPI, WILKINSON COUNTY, Tansy Island Hunting Club Camp Site and Clubhouse, Tansy Island Rd., off of Dolosoro Loop, Woodville vicinity, 95000179, NOMINATION, 3/03/95

NEBRASKA, KNOX COUNTY, Winnetoon Jail, Jct. of First St. and Sherman Ave., Winnetoon, 95000094, NOMINATION, 2/27/95

Continued on next page

2007

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

1. Name of Site:

Common Elks Lodge, B.P.O.E No. 654

Historic

2. Location:

Street and Number

SE cor Union and Monroe

City or Town

Litchfield

County

Township

9N

Range

5W

Section

35

1/4 Section

SW

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

() District

() Site

() Building

(X) Structure

Integrity (check one)

() Altered (X) Unaltered

() Moved (X) Original Site

4. Ownership:

(X) Private

() Public

Status (check one)

(X) Occupied

() Unoccupied

(X) Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

(X) Yes (X) Restricted () Unrestricted () No

Present Use (check one or more)

() Agricultural

() Commercial

() Educational

() Entertainment

() Government

() Industrial

() Military

() Museum

() Park

() Private Residence

() Religious

() Scientific

() Transportation

(X) Other (specify)

organizational

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name B.P.O.E. No. 654

Phone Number

Street and Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

6. Description:

Condition:

(X) Excellent () Good () Fair () Deteriorated () Ruins

() Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? () Yes () No

FRATERNAL



