



ODD FELLOWS HALL (I.O.O.F)
NW Corner Polk & Lawrence Streets

1897

Built by International Order of Odd Fellows Lodge # 9, Washington Territory

This large two-story wood building was not only used as the organization's lodge but was the site of dances and public events. Although all lodges had dance floors, it has been said that the Odd Fellows' was the biggest, best and most often used for many years.

Pre-1947: William A. Buse operated a roller skating rink in the downstairs portion of the building until 1947.

1947: The bottom portion of the building was leased from the I.O.O.F. and renovated by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Thompson as a movie theater in April of 1947. The Uptown Theater was operated first by the Thompsons and later by their daughter Sharon and her husband Dick Wiley.

1997: Ownership of the building itself was maintained by the Odd Fellows until the 1997 sale to the Wileys. Very little has been done to the building over the years and, at the time of its sale, it was in need of rewiring, paint and general repair. It is a fine example of early wood construction.

2010: The Uptown Theater, started by the Thompson family, has operated at this location for the last 63 years.

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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