

# Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination

*Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, City Hall, Third Floor  
808 Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, Washington 99201-3337*

## 1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Knights of Pythias Hall  
And/Or Common Name: NAC Architecture

## 2. Location

Street & Number: 1203 West Riverside Avenue  
City, State, Zip Code: Spokane, WA, 99201  
Parcel Number: 35183.1224

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building	<input type="checkbox"/> public <input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure			<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> residential
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes, restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes, unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other

## 4. Owner of Property

Name: 1203 Properties LLP  
Street & Number: 1203 West Riverside Avenue  
City, State, Zip Code: Spokane, WA 99201  
Telephone Number/E-mail:

## 5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds	Spokane County Courthouse
Street Number:	1116 West Broadway
City, State, Zip Code:	Spokane, WA 99260
County:	Spokane

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title: Riverside Historic District  
Date: Enter survey date if applicable Federal State County Local  
Depository for Survey Records: Spokane Historic Preservation Office

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

### Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

### Check One

- unaltered
- altered

### Check One

- original site
- moved & date \_\_\_\_\_

*Narrative statement of description is found on one or more continuation sheets.*

## 8. Spokane Register Criteria and Statement of Significance

**Applicable Spokane Register of Historic Places criteria: Mark "x" on one or more for the categories that qualify the property for the Spokane Register listing:**

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Spokane 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 history.
- E Property represents the culture and heritage of the city of Spokane in ways not adequately addressed in the other criteria, as in its visual prominence, reference to intangible heritage, or any range of cultural practices.

*Narrative statement of significance is found on one or more continuation sheets.*

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

*Bibliography is found on one or more continuation sheets.*

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one  
Verbal Boundary Description: RES&ADD SPOKANE FALLS ALL N OF S80FTL5B27  
Verbal Boundary Justification: Nominated property includes entire parcel and urban legal description.

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name and Title: Jim Kolva, Owner  
Organization: Jim Kolva Associates, LLC  
Street, City, State, Zip Code: 115 South Adams Street, Suite 1, Spokane, WA 99201  
Telephone Number: 509-458-5517  
E-mail Address: jim@jimkolvaassociates.com  
Date Final Nomination Heard:

## 12. Additional Documentation

*Additional documentation is found on one or more continuation sheets.*

**13. Signature of Owner(s)**

DocuSigned by:  
*Randall Wilson*

80DD89957C32437...  
Randall Wilson

11/10/2021

**14. For Official Use Only:**

Date nomination application filed: 9/26/21

Date of Landmarks Commission Hearing: 10/20/21

Landmarks Commission decision: Approved

Date of City Council hearing: November 8, 2021

**I hereby certify that this property has been listed in the Spokane Register of Historic Places based upon the action of the Spokane City Council as set forth above.**

DocuSigned by:  
*Megan Duvall*

**Megan Duvall**  
**City/County Historic Preservation Officer**  
City/County Historic Preservation Office  
Third Floor – City Hall  
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.  
Spokane, WA 99201

11/10/2021

**Date**

Attest:

Approved as to form:

DocuSigned by:  
*Lisa Hoffman*  
City Clerk

DS

*Michael J. Penolo*  
Assistant City Attorney



## SUMMARY STATEMENT

On a corner lot, the 1911 Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall is a three-story unreinforced red “clinker” brick structure topped by a partial hipped roof clad with red Mission tiles. The angled and symmetrically-arranged front façade is divided into five bays, a centered entry bay with two window bays flanking each side. A bracketed Mission tile porch projects over the first-floor entry landing. Detailing of the flat-arch window bays consists of corbeled brick sill and header courses and limestone lintels detail the window openings of front and east side facades. The exposed east and north facades of the building are terminated by broad overhanging eaves and molded tin cornices supported by square pressed tin brackets. Behind and above the cornices is a narrow red Spanish tile roof that screens the flat roof parapet wall.

The building is in its original location and retains integrity of design, material, craftsmanship, and workmanship. Its setting on the angled corner lot across from the boulevard strip of Riverside Avenue creates a prominent feature of the building siting. Alterations have included an addition to the south side (rear) which does not adversely affect the major facades, replacement of the window sash, and replacement of the front entry door assembly.

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The Knights of Pythias Hall, in the west end of downtown Spokane, is about three blocks west of the central business district. The block in which it is located, Block 27, is triangular with the apex on the west end formed by the merging of Riverside and Sprague avenues at Cedar Street. Riverside Avenue, a boulevard park strip, is the center of the Riverside Avenue National Register Historic District (1976). The Knights of Pythias is in the historic district joined by a cluster of early 1900s apartment buildings. On the southwest corner of Riverside Avenue and Jefferson Street, the Knights of Pythias Lodge faces north toward the Riverfalls Tower apartment building (1973). The Riverside Court Townhouse development (2007), Edwidge Apartments (1914, SRHP), and San Marco Apartments (1904, NRHD) are to the west of the building with the San Marco terminating the block



1. *Knights of Pythias – Northeast corner at Riverside and Jefferson*

with frontages along both Riverside Avenue and Sprague Avenue. An asphalt parking lot abuts the south side on the southwest corner of Sprague Avenue and Jefferson Street with the 1913 Myrtle Apartments to the west.

The footprint of the building is within the parcel boundary, but the roof overhangs along the north and east sides and southeast corner extend beyond the property line. The front (north) façade follows the angle of Riverside Avenue while the rear (south) façade is at right

angles with the side walls. Approximate dimensions of the building are 50 feet in width, 78 feet along the west façade, and 92 feet along the east façade, and about 54 feet along the angled north façade.

Only the southeast corner of the south (rear) façade is exposed, the rest covered by a three-story addition completed in 2008. The 2008 addition is concrete, stone panel, and copper panel, with a projecting glass curtain wall lens that dominates the east façade.

As described in *Spokane's Building Blocks*:

The most conspicuous thing about this building is its extreme brick pattern, of Flemish cross bond with black headers on the red face brick. Three stories of wide windows on the two flat street walls are capped close above the top windows with a wide overhang of a low sloped roof segment, changing a short distance back to a flat roof. Parapet walls on west and south project above. The architect was Robert C. Sweatt, whose father was a contractor here since 1903.

The 1911 Knights of Pythias building is a three-story unreinforced red to black brick structure which rests on a basalt rubble and brick basement wall. The burned “clinker” brick, in Flemish bond has a stressed surface with color ranging to black—the headers are black with the stretchers range. Because of the acute angle of Riverside Avenue, the front façade is angled in congruence with the street. The angled and symmetrically-arranged front façade is divided into five bays, a centered entry bay with two window bays flanking each side. A corbeled brick sill course – one row of brick stretchers and sill course of brick headers – runs from corner to corner along the first-floor window openings which are recessed approximately 8 inches. The jambs are undifferentiated from the walls and 12-inch-wide limestone lintels, flush with the wall plane and projecting slightly beyond the jambs, form the tops of the flat arches of the first and second floors. The second-floor windows are framed with brick header sills, that project slightly and extend one header beyond the jambs. Above the “sterling stone” ((also known as oolitic limestone which is sedimentary rock with sand-sized spheres (ooids) that vary in color from white to tan.)) lintels of the second story windows is a slightly projecting brick header course that extends across the entire façade. A flat 8-course brick field is set between the header course and a corbel course composed of a slightly projecting stretcher course topped with a slightly projecting course of double headers that forms the sill of the third story windows which are topped with a flat arch of brick stretchers supported by a flat steel plate.



2. Cross shield on front facade

The entry is emphasized by an overhanging square porch clad with red Mission tiles (galvanized tin per the plans) and supported by a pair of heavy square pressed tin brackets on each side of the door. Additional support is provided by chains that attach the two outside corners of the porch to the wall above. Within the wall are two cast stone bas relief tiger's heads that hold a ring to which the chain is attached in their mouths. Set high on the wall and flanking each side of the window bay aligned over the entry is circle of slightly projecting brick headers that



3. Tiger head on front facade

cages the tigers. In the wall sections between the flanking and end window bays, slightly projecting brick headers form shields which, in turn, frame a vertically-aligned cross.

The broadly reaching porch covers the concrete landing that is approached by a straight and broad run of four steps flanked by square brick gate posts topped with a pyramidal concrete cap. A concrete ramp extends from the west side to join the landing. This stair/ramp arrangement replaced the original concrete steps. The entry assembly consists of a heavy and wide wood-frame glass panel door with a narrow wood-frame sidelight on the east side and a narrow transom window running from brick jamb to brick jamb.

The façade is terminated by wide and sloping overhanging eaves that are supported by heavy square pressed tin brackets. The ends of the paired brackets support a compound cornice consisting of a narrow flat molding and a narrow concave molding transitioning to a wider convex cornice that flairs into a narrow flat molding. The cornice functions as a gutter that drains to a downspout in the northwest corner. Behind and

above the cornice molding are the ends of the pressed galvanized tin Mission tiles that form the hipped roof. The exposed tile roof is decorative in that it extends only about 12 feet to abut an internal parapet wall. Brick parapet walls are along the south and west exterior walls.

### East Facade

The east façade is along the west side of Jefferson Street which slopes gradually down to the north, thus the basement wall is taller on the northeast than the southeast corner. The basement wall is solid with no openings. The façade is divided into seven window bays which are similarly configured. A corbeled brick sill course – one row of brick stretchers and sill course of brick headers – runs from corner to corner along the first-floor window openings which are recessed approximately 8 inches. The jambs are undifferentiated from the walls and 12-



4. East facade along Jefferson

inch-wide limestone lintels, flush with the wall plane and projecting slightly beyond the jambs, form the tops of the flat arches of the first and second floors. The second-floor windows are detailed the same as the first floor with brick header sills and limestone lintels. Along the tops of the second-floor lintels is a slightly projecting row of brick headers that extend from corner to corner. Above the header course is a

brick field of eight brick courses, and above that, a triple corbel course composed of a row of stretchers and projecting double row of headers forming a sill course for the third-floor window bays. These bays are configured the same as the lower floors, but the heads are flat-arches of brick stretchers supported by a flat steel plate. The original window sash has been replaced by one-light glass panels.

With the exception of the first and second bays (north to south) the windows of the three floors are equally-spaced and sized, and aligned over each other. The northerly window bays are slightly narrower than those of bays 3 through 7. Bay 1 and 2 openings are several inches narrower than the southerly bays. Bay 2 also differs in that the ground floor bay consists of a pair of half-width windows.

The ground floor bay is paired with windows that are narrower but are the same height and topped with limestone lintels. The single windows of the second floor and third floor bays are slightly wider and aligned over the southerly window of the pair. The window of the second-floor bay is topped with a limestone lintel. The windows of the third floor, as are all the windows of the third story, are topped with a flat brick arch supported by a flat steel plate.

Two red brick chimneys near the front of the building extend through the roof along the east wall; both are approximately six feet high; one is larger and brick-patterned and the other is about half the width and plain. Both have cast stone caps, with the larger covered by galvanized sheet metal.

Between each of the window openings--but not equally spaced--are paired galvanized tin brackets painted a crème color. As with the front façade, the brackets support a pressed tin cornice (gutter) above which is a narrow-sloped roof section clad by red Mission tiles. The tiles back to a sheet metal parapet that rises approximately 12 inches from the tile edge. On the south side is a brick parapet wall capped by a sloped terra cotta coping. The majority of the roof is flat composition.



5. 2008 addition and 1911 building, east elevation

The 2008 addition is attached to the rear façade of the 1911 building. Three stories in height, the building is crisply articulated and in contemporary glass, sandstone and copper which starkly contrasts with the traditional style of the brick Knights of Pythias Hall.

### **West Façade (side)**

The west façade adjoins the east wall of the Riverside Court Townhouses and other than the plain northwest brick corner is covered by the townhouses. At the top of the front wall the profile of the sloping eaves and the brackets is pronounced as the roof abuts the west parapet wall.

### Rear (South) Façade

The rear façade of the original building is obscured by the three-story 2008 addition which is composed of three wall segments: on the west, weathered copper panels punctured by four narrow horizontal window slits (two on each floor), a raw concrete wall section divided into a narrow section and a wide section by a vertically-aligned narrow window assembly, and the edge of a projecting second-and-third-floor window-wall lens that opens to the east.

The addition's copper-clad east wall is inset approximately 8 feet from the exposed southeast corner of the 1911 building. The addition wall meets the 1911 building at the east end of the brick parapet wall to



6. 2008 addition, south elevation

which the hipped roof abuts. This wall section is featureless brick up to the header course above the second-floor window bays at which point the brick course is projected slightly. Identical to the east façade, a corbeled stretcher and double header sill course wraps the corner and extends to within a brick length of the addition wall. Centered in the wall segment is a bracket pair supporting overhanging eaves, molded tin cornice and mission-style roof tiles.

The addition is rectangular and composed of raw concrete, sheet copper and salmon-colored sandstone block walls, dominated by a projecting angular glass curtain wall lens.

### Interior

The building includes a basement and three upper floors. The first, second, and third floors are currently being remodeled.

In the original plans, the first floor contained a sitting room and office flanking the entry vestibule in the northeast and northwest corner, respectively. Cloak rooms and restrooms bracketed a short, centered hallway that opened to a large banquet hall and meeting room that occupied the south half of the floor. Stairs in the northeast corner provided access to the basement and up to the second-floor lodge room. Reception and equipment/uniform rooms occupied the northern 1/3 of the floor with the lodge room in the remainder. The room opened to the third-floor ceiling with the third-floor balcony along the west, south, and east walls. The third-floor included a smoking room on the north end, perimeter balcony and large open area above the second-floor lodge room which extended from the second floor to the third-floor ceiling. The interior is now an open concept office.

### ORIGINAL APPEARANCE & SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATIONS

The basic building form, materials and detailing are essentially unaltered from its 1911 form, but window sash and the front entry door and approach were altered in the 1980s. Although the openings have been retained, the multi-light window sash has been replaced by single glass panels, and the original door



## **SECTION 8: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**Area of Significance:** A – Broad Patterns of Spokane History  
C - Architecture  
**Period of Significance:** 1903 -1961  
**Architect:** Robert Carlisle Sweatt  
**Building Developer:** Knights of Pythias  
**Building Contractor:** Pettifer Construction Company, Spokane

### **SUMMARY STATEMENT**

#### **Significant under Category A – Broad Patterns of Spokane History**

Constructed in 1911, the Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall Building is eligible under Category A as an early downtown fraternal hall constructed just outside of the city's most significant period of growth from 1900 to 1910, it represents the expansive fraternal movement in Spokane. More importantly, it was constructed during the hey-day of the fraternal lodge movement in Spokane. This more modest building represents a group that, like other lodges, took several years to organize and fund the construction of its own building. The location on Riverside Avenue was central in the city and the Masonic Temple and Spokane Club were already located nearby. The popularity of the fraternal organizations in the city no doubt brought together newcomers and were important social organizations in the city as it expanded. It is one of ten existing buildings built either as fraternal halls or buildings that housed fraternal organizations remaining in downtown Spokane. Four of such buildings that were built solely as fraternal or social halls are along Riverside Avenue within the National Historic District. The Knights of Pythias Lodge is listed in the Riverside Avenue National Historic District as a "Secondary Property" that contributes to the historic district.

#### **Significant under Category C – Architecture**

Occupying the corner of a uniquely platted block in downtown, the building holds a prominent location within the Riverside Avenue National Historic District. The three-story red brick building is distinctive in form and use of material with clinker brick, limestone, and pressed tin. With its wide overhanging eaves, pronounced square brackets and tile hipped roof, the Mission style commercial building is rather rare in downtown Spokane. With the exception of its sash and entry door, the building is essentially unaltered from its original construction.

### **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

#### **Historical Context**

The historical context for Spokane has been included in several National and Spokane Register nominations, including the Riverside Avenue National Historic District (Garrett & Potter, 1976) thus, the Spokane historic context discussion is abbreviated.

The Spokane River and its falls had long been a gathering place for Native American tribes. It also attracted white settlers, J.J. Downing and family and S.R. Scranton, who established a claim at Spokane Falls in 1871. James N. Glover and Jasper Matheny would follow and purchase the claims of 160 acres and the sawmill from Downing and Scranton. Early industry would use the water power for milling and sawing lumber and to generate electrical power. The settlement would grow slowly until the railroad entered the city.

The Northern Pacific Railroad arrived in Spokane Falls in 1881, the year of Spokane's incorporation, and with the connection of the eastern and western branches in 1883, transcontinental service through Spokane Falls was established. Spokane continued to grow as a regional shipping and distribution center through the 1880s. Between 1886 and 1889 the population increased from 3,500 to 20,000 people. Although suffering a set back by the fire of August 4, 1889, which destroyed approximately thirty-two blocks of the business district from the railroad tracks to the river and from Lincoln to Washington Streets, the city quickly rebounded as new brick buildings rose from the ashes. The devastation wrought by the fire resulted in a city ordinance to reduce fire hazard, leading to brick and terra cotta becoming the dominant building materials of the rebuilt downtown.

When Spokane businessmen rebuilt the downtown after the fire, the business district would spread east to Division Street and follow Monroe Street across the river. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps from 1891, 1902, and 1910 show a marked increase in the building of commercial buildings in the east downtown. Frame dwellings gave way to brick commercial buildings and street frontages began to solidify. Among the property types and businesses that were prevalent were hotels, lodging houses, saloons, banks, drug stores, and restaurants. They were built to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population.

Generally, warehouses cropped up along the Northern Pacific rail corridor between the two alleys bracketing the tracks. In the blocks south of that warehouse district were shops and two-to-three-story apartment buildings and hotels. These apartment blocks ran along Second and Third avenues, and the cross streets including Post, Howard, Stevens, and Washington as they advanced up the lower South Hill.

According to architectural historian Eugenia Woo (2003), Spokane's population exploded from 36,848 to 104,402 between 1900 and 1910.

This growth mirrored the population expansion of the state that saw its greatest increase in the same decade. Many people moving to Washington settled in the states three largest cities: Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane. Various industries rapidly developed and with it a demand for more buildings. Most of the city's urban downtown skyline was created from about the late 1890s to 1912 with the construction of office buildings, banks, hotels, department stores and other commercial buildings. As author John Fahey describes, Spokane, which had put up 675 new structures in 1900 as migration accelerated, built 1,500 to 1,900 buildings a year from 1904 through 1909.

The economic boom and population expansion of approximately the first fifteen years of the 20th century was short-lived. Growth in both areas in the next decade slowed considerably. By 1920, the population of Spokane was only 104,437, an increase of only 35 people from 1910. Investors soon realized the city was overbuilt. The region it served (the Inland Northwest) was not able to sustain the city and keep pace with the speculative growth. By 1950, the population had increased by only 50,000.

*The Spokesman-Review* celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary (6/17/1909) with a major edition that showcased the birth of an inland empire and touted of the growth and prominence of Spokane, the capital of a region rich with mines, timber, and farmland, railroads and water power.

**SPOKANE GREATEST RAILROAD CENTER WEST OF THE MISSOURI  
BIG LUMBER OPERATIONS IN THE INLAND NORTHWEST  
OUTPUT OF MINES IS ENORMOUS**

**BUILDING OPERATIONS EXCEED \$8,000,000 (on banner)**

Permits Issued for First Five Months of 1909 Total 1497, for \$3,866,250, against 1303 for \$2,528,170 a Year Ago.

A list of some 32 individual buildings and building corridors were listed as either under construction or to be started in 1909 with a total cost of \$8,000,000. Prominent buildings listed in the article included: Old National Bank, Davenport Hotel, Acme Portland Cement Plant, E.H. Stanton & Co. Packing Plant, Spokane Club, Washington Water Power Company, W.E. Parsons Building, Dry Goods Realty Building, North Monroe district buildings, new flats and apartment houses and new dwellings (estimated at 2000 new homes at an average of \$1100 each).

“The estimate of \$590,000 to cover the cost of new flat buildings is conservative, as will appear from the fact that it was reached by allowing 25 flats to be built at a cost of \$23,500 each. This is conservative both as to number and cost. There are probably 25 flats now building, while many more will be started this year, and the cost will probably average easily \$25,000 each.”

In its August 1, 1909 Sunday edition, The Spokesman-Review reported:

**BUILDING PERMITS GAIN 48.5 PER CENT**

First Seven Months Up to Within \$750,000 of Entire 1908 Total  
YEAR TO DATE, \$5,150,530  
Number to Date Is 1969 Against 1807 for Same Period Last Year.

Building permits for the first seven months of 1909 are 48.6 per cent greater than for the first seven months of 1908 and are within \$750,000 of the total for last year.

Already a total of \$5,150,530 in permits has been taken out. While for all of last year the total was \$5,927,548.

For the first seven months of last year the total permits amounted to \$3,456,840. This year to date shows an increase of \$1,684,690, or 48.6 per cent.

The number of permits issued the first seven months this year is 1969, as against 1807 for the same period last year, a gain of 162 permits, or 9 percent. The fact that the increase in cost is much greater than the increase in number of permits shows that more expensive and larger buildings are being erected this year.

July shows a substantial gain over July of last year. The total for the month just past is 211 permits, amounting to \$683,110, while for July last year 182 permits were taken out at an estimated cost of \$433,560. This is a gain of \$149,440, or 15 per cent. Every month this year has made a substantial gain over the corresponding month last year.

Spokane was booming; workers were streaming to the city on the rails. The population had exploded from 19,992 in 1890 to 36,848 in 1900, and 104,402 in 1910. The downtown blocks surrounding the business core were being converted from wood frame dwellings to three-and four-story brick hotels with businesses on the street level and residences above. Most all of these residential buildings were single room occupant hotels (or SROs). They were built quickly and simply for the influx of workers coming into Spokane. The regional industries such as mining, lumber, and agriculture sent their laborers into downtown Spokane when the work season ended.

### **The Rise of Fraternal Organizations in the United States**

The origin of mutual aid societies dates back to the guilds of the Anglo-Saxons and fraternities and unions formed in trade organizations in Great Britain. The organization of a society was generally affected under the stress of some difficulty.

The development of modern fraternal orders was especially dynamic in the United States, where the freedom to associate outside governmental regulation is expressly sanctioned in law. There have been hundreds of fraternal organizations in the United States, and at the beginning of the 20th century the number of memberships equaled the number of adult males, although membership in several different organizations probably meant that about 50% of men belonged to at least one organization. This led to the period being referred to as "the Golden age of fraternalism."

The only true distinction between a fraternity and any other form of social organizations is the implication that the members are freely associated as equals for a mutually beneficial purpose rather than because of a religious, governmental, commercial, or familial bond – although there are fraternities dedicated to each of these fields of association. (Stevens)

In the United States there arose a great number of societies having mutual aid as their objective. The order of Freemasons and Oddfellows are some of the oldest. "Most were short-lived and purely local, but many, like the Knights of Pythias and Ancient Order of United Workmen, have grown to national proportions." Fraternities can be organized for many purposes, including university education, work skills, ethics, ethnicity, religion, politics, charity, chivalry, other standards of personal conduct, asceticism, service, performing arts, family command of territory, and even crime. There is almost always an explicit goal of mutual support, and while there have been fraternal orders for the well-off there have also been many fraternities for those in the lower ranks of society, especially for national or religious minorities. Trade unions also grew out of fraternities such as the Knights of Labor.

The fraternities entered a "boom" period that lasted throughout the remainder of the 1800s and well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Elks grew tremendously from 10 lodges, all in major metropolitan centers, and 1,000 members in 1880 to 158 lodges, with a "herd" of 13,000, by 1890. Of 568 fraternal societies whose date of organization could be ascertained, 78 were founded before 1880, 124 between 1880 and 1890, 136 between 1890 and 1895, and 230 from 1895 to 1901. The aggregate membership had risen from 3,707,947 in 1893 to 5,339,075 in 1900.

Approximately one half of this enormous total, about 2,250,000 were included in the three oldest and most purely fraternal orders—the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Freemasons, and the Knight of Pythias; 2,500,000 more belonged to the 47 fraternities that made up the National Fraternal Congress, and the remaining membership was distributed

among the other 500 minor fraternities. –The aggregate membership did not include members of the various labor organizations, or the 500,000 members of secret military orders, such as the Grand Army of the Republic, or those connected with college fraternities. (Vondracek, 1972)

### **American Fraternal Lodges: Privilege and Exclusion**

American fraternal lodges reinforced privilege for white males. Lodge gatherings, and especially regional and national conventions, were networking opportunities to develop social and economic capital. People of color, and to some extent women, were excluded from these venues where profitable connections were made and new relationships were formed. From their founding through the majority of the period of significance, most fraternal lodges had explicit policies that required all members to be free white males who believed in God and were at least 21 years old.

8. No person shall be initiated into a Lodge of this Order who has not reached the legal age of majority in the country where the Lodge is located, nor unless he be a white male, of good moral character, sound in health, and a believer in a Supreme Being. Every application for membership must be accompanied with the initiation fee, the amount of which shall be fixed by each Grand Lodge; *Provided*, That in no case shall the

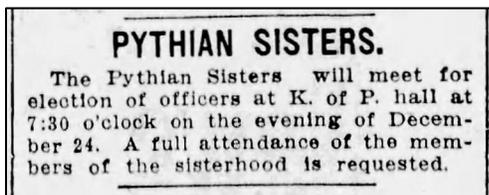
*7. Article VIII of the K.o.P. Constitution, 1886*

The Knights of Pythias Constitution published in 1886 stated that “no person shall be initiated unless he be a white male, of good moral character, sound in health, and a believer in a Supreme Being.” This clause excluded women, people of color, people with disabilities, people under 21 years of age, and atheists. All subordinate lodges in the organization, including the Spokane Knights of Pythias, were bound by the rules of the organization’s constitution. The membership rules changed over time and the boundaries were expanding, but that expansion took time and effort.

In 1888, the Knights of Pythias approved a women’s auxiliary of the fraternal order, the Order of Pythian Sisters, which allowed membership for white women related or married to a member of the K.o.P. Spokane had multiple Pythian Sisters auxiliaries associated with each of the lodges. Although they did not have their own meeting hall, the Pythian Sisters regularly met at the K.o.P. Hall on Riverside. The Pythian Sisters still exist as a fraternal order but members are no longer required to be related to a K.o.P.



*8. The Spokesman-Review, September 12, 1920*



*9. Spokane Chronicle, December 21, 1908.*

In the 1900s, the Knights of Pythias dropped their good health requirement to allow membership for those injured in war. In 1920, soon after World War I was over, the Knights of Pythias changed their minimum age requirement to 18 years old. The organization cited the heroism and sacrifice of many 18-20 year olds in the recent war effort.

People of color, who were banned from the Knights of Pythias, formed their own fraternal orders with the same names but without any formal affiliation to their white counterparts. Black Spokanites organized a Masonic Order, an order of Odd Fellows, and a Knights of Pythias Lodge. Some white members of the Knights of Pythias were upset that Black



10. *Spokane Chronicle*, December 19, 1901.

disqualified any "person who is a Roman Catholic" or any person who educates his children "in any Roman Catholic school." In 1925 the Knight of Pythias allowed the Ku Klux Klan to meet in their hall where an initiation of one hundred new members took place with over six hundred members in attendance in the lodge's big hall. Although the nights of Pythias were not explicitly anti-Catholic, Spokane K.o.P. did invite anti-Catholic groups into their space. It is also worth noting that these anti-Catholic meetings happened just a couple doors down from the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Cathedral.

Fraternal lodges were important institutions in late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century America, however their benefits were primarily extended to privileged white men. Although women's auxiliaries and Black fraternal organization existed, they generally did not have their own meeting hall that allow for an obvious avenue for historic preservationists to tell their story.

### **Knights of Pythias and Fraternal Lodges in Spokane**

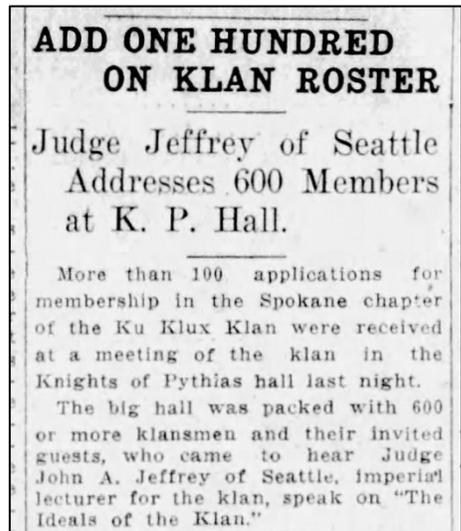
The Spokane lodge of the Knights of Pythias, as reported by *The Spokesman-Review* on March 1, 1884, was formed as Myrtle Lodge, No. 14, K. of P. on February 26<sup>th</sup> with a charter membership of 30. Meetings were held at the Odd Fellows Hall every Tuesday evening. Regular advertisements were run in the local tabloids for "Myrtle Lodge No. 14, K. of P., Meets in Castle Hall, in the Odd Fellow's Building Every Monday Evening, at 8 o'clock P.M. All members in good standing will receive a Knightly welcome."

News of "The Fraternal Orders" was regularly reported in both the *Chronicle* and *The Spokesman-Review*. The Knights of Pythias, Masonic orders, Ancient Order of Foresters, Hibernians, Red Men, Oddfellows, Elks, Eagles, and Moose, and many others. Within the fraternal groups were lodges and camps and other subgroups within the city and throughout the state.

Americans were using the Knights of Pythias name and rituals but it does not seem they made a formal attempt to stop them. The Knight of Pythias did not drop their requirement for members to be white until the 1950s.

Atheists are still barred from membership in the Knights of Pythias because all members are still required to believe in a "Supreme Being" and members are to attest to their belief when they take their oath.

The Knights of Pythias of Spokane also rented their hall on Riverside Avenue to some explicitly racist and anti-Catholic groups like the Orangemen and Ku Klux Klan. The Orangemen, an anti-Catholic group who organized to "defend the Protestant religion ... against all encroachments," held their inaugural meeting where the first fifty members were initiated by a delegation from Walla Walla. The group chose a former Exalted Cyclops of the Ku Klux Klan as their Deputy Councilor, or second in command. In their organization's rules, the Orangemen



11. *Spokane Chronicle*, March 20, 1925.

In an article illuminating the activities of Spokane's fraternal lodges, the article points out that the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 1894 marks the passing of the third decade of the order of the Knights of Pythias as an organization.

The foundation of the order does not date back to dim antiquity, but the lessons of charity and benevolence it teaches are nevertheless widespread. From a nucleus of five members thirty years ago, the order has grown until it now numbers 6,000 subordinate lodges with more than 450,000 active members and over 1,200 division of the uniform rank with 50,000 members.

To Justus H. Rathbone is entitled the honor of being the founder of the order. The original meeting at which the primary steps were taken to establish the fraternity was held in Washington, Feb. 15, 1864. The ritual which was prepared by Mr. Rathbone was read and accepted and at subsequent meetings degree work was commenced. The grand lodge was organized April 8, 1864, and the members of the order set about forming new lodges.

The second was instituted at the navy yard and was known as Franklin Lodge No. 2. Three or four lodges were organized during the year. In 1865 interest in the order waned but it was revived when the turmoil of war had subsided and a steady growth has since characterized the organization.

In this city the order is exceptionally strong having five lodges with a membership of over 500 persons.

In November 1896, for example, the *Chronicle* reported the formation of a new lodge, Red Cross No. 28, Knights of Pythias. The Phoenix lodge of Spokane would be consolidated with the Red Cross lodge No. 28 of Sprague. The membership and paraphernalia would be moved to Spokane and consolidate with the Phoenix lodge under the name of Red Cross No. 28 with a membership of 210. Two other Spokane lodges were mentioned: the Myrtle lodge which was reviving with a membership of 90, and the Falls City lodge with a membership of 130.

Two years later, in January 1898, consolidation among the Knights of Pythias lodges was again taking place. The *Chronicle* reported "**Make One Strong Lodge From Three.**" The Oaksdale lodge would consolidate with Falls City No. 40 and give up their charter. An effort was also being made to unite Falls City and Myrtle No. 14 under one charter. The union would give a roll of over 350 members, making it the largest in the northwest.

"Self-preservation is the first law of nature," explained a knight to a *Chronicle* reporter. "This is the reason we make this move. Two small societies cannot compete against a big one, which it comes to working for new members."

The reception of the city to the Knights was reported in the *Chronicle* in its May 15, 1900 edition: "**This Town is Theirs.**" The Mayor welcomed the visitors and gave The Knights of Pythias Possession of Spokane.

The grand crusade of pilgrim knights has reached Spokane. The travelers are encamped in the heart of the city and the mayor has turned over the arsenal of Spokane's stores to the invaders. They are here over 200 strong and have gathered man more recruits with the walls of the city.

The knights, the uniform rank resplendent in their gorgeous uniforms; the fated applications for admission to the Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan and the gracious Rathbone Sisters have taken their abode in Spokane for three days. Nearly 100 delegates to the grand lodge and about 200 visiting members arrived yesterday and today.

The business houses and the streets were decorated with red, gold and blue in honor of the visitors. Friends of the order were everywhere guiding and directing the arrivals to the headquarters in the old Tivolia building. At that place the visitors registered and an enrollment of about 200 was secured.

At 10 a.m. the grand lodge was formally opened at the Knights of Pythias hall. About 150 members of the grand lodge were present and a most enthusiastic meeting was held. ...

“The cardinal principles of the Knights of Pythias are friendship, charity and benevolence. There is no heart so brave no head so high that it does not need a friend. There is no arm so strong that it may not need to the ministrations of charity. There is no name so bright, no life so pure that it does not need the mantle of kind and tender benevolence.

“To be a perfect Pythian knight means to be almost, if not altogether, a perfect man. Though our order is young, its principles are eternal, and have inspired many heroes among the sons of men and many have been faithful even unto death. ...

In 1900, the Knights of Pythias lodge was housed in the three-story Van Houten Block at 816 West Riverside. They had been at this location since 1895 and before that the Daniel Block on Main and Howard. Although the building had just been sold to Victor Dessert, owner of the Pacific Hotel, by the Northwestern & Pacific Hypotheekbank, the Knights would remain there until they could build their new lodge hall on Riverside. The Oddfellows also met at Pacific Hall (814 West Riverside).

“**Investment by Knights**” was reported in a September 4, 1902 article by the Chronicle. The Red Cross lodge had “invested in a lot on the south side of Front Avenue that was occupied by Novelty Carriage Works and by McMullough, the painter. Near Post Street, the purchase price was \$7,500.” The article added that the lodge was in a very prosperous condition financially.

The *Spokane Chronicle* reported another joining of Knight’s forces in the December 6, 1902 edition. “**Lodges Vote to Unite.**” “The Spokane camp voted unanimously to consolidate with the Red Cross camp of the same order. The combined lodges will be known as the Red Cross camp No. 28 with a total membership of about 450 and will be one of the strongest camps in the northwest.”

The progress edition of the Spokesman Review of January 1, 1903 included a section on Spokane’s “Fraternal Orders,” and reported the strong participation of Spokane residents in fraternal organizations. “**Spokane has 87 District Lodges, and Leads the Northwest in Fraternal Spirit.**” As reported, with 87 lodges, Spokane led the other cities of the Pacific Northwest.

Spokane, as in many other things, leads the cities of the Pacific Northwest in fraternalism. As far as known this city has no peer in the United States in the

number and strength of its secret societies, total population considered. Nowhere else in the world will fraternalism and all that it implies find a better exemplification than in Spokane.

According to the article, membership in Spokane's 87 lodges was estimated at 11,885, or a number equal to the total adult male population of the city. The article reminds, however, that one person might belong to several organizations; indeed "one man here is known to belong to 17 distinct orders, exclusive of the Masonic and I.O.O. F. bodies."

Also noted in the article was the participation of women:

Another noticeable fact in the development of the fraternal idea in Spokane is the very large number of woman's auxiliary orders. The women are more enthusiastic than the men and the numerical strength of their lodges is greater than that of the orders of which men only are eligible to membership. Nearly all of the woman's lodges have organized social clubs and give weekly or monthly entertainments in the way of dances, card parties, etc. in addition to attendance at the regular lodge meetings. It is estimated that full 7500 people, or one-seventh of the entire population of the city, are identified with one or more of the secret societies of Spokane.

....

The article continued to discuss the various organizations in the city.

In the point of age and numerical strength the Masonic bodies of Spokane stand first in importance...The first Masonic Blue lodge was instituted in Spokane June 3, 1880....Spokane is the leading Masonic city of the state. ... The Elks lodge "not only have first place in Spokane but in the entire country with a membership of nearly 1200. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows stands next in order of importance and numbers over 1000 members in its various lodges. The Foresters of America have the strongest lodge in the state at Spokane.

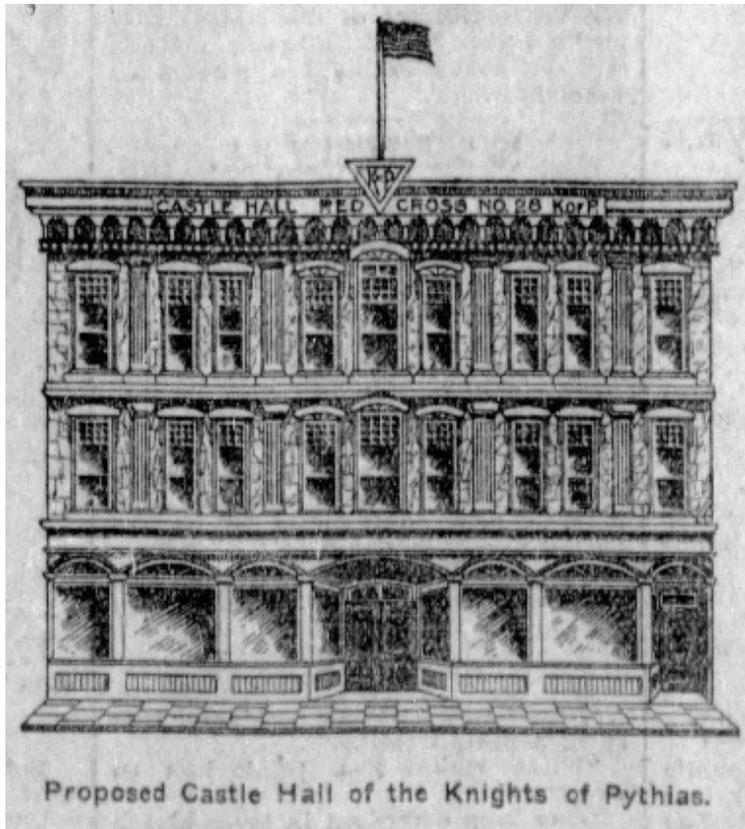
#### **Headquarters for K. of P.**

The Knights of Pythias by the recent consolidation of Spokane and Red Cross lodges, have the strongest lodge in the state with a total membership of 450. A branch of the endowment rank is also located here. A division of the uniform rank and the headquarters of the state brigade are located here. A temple of the Rathbone Sisters, the woman's auxiliary, has a membership of about 100.

On January 16, 1905, the *Chronicle* reported "**One Lodge for All Knights of Pythias.**" The final consolidation in Spokane was a work in progress. Red Cross lodge, No. 28, and the Mount Carleton lodge, No. 127, of Hillyard were joining forces, thus bringing together all the Knights of Spokane and its suburbs for a total of about 575 members. In February 1906, the 39 members of the Cheney lodge consolidated into Spokane.

Spokane's Masons were also on the move as they occupied their new quarters on Riverside Avenue, the first of the major civic and fraternal organizations to occupy what would become home to Spokane's grandest collection of buildings. The auspicious event of laying the cornerstone—for their own temple, a long-held

Masonic tradition was completed in October 1904. The *Spokane Daily Chronicle* chronicled the event on August 24, 1905: "It's A Great Day for the Masons of Spokane." A Corinthian colonnade and loggia of the monumental edifice graced Riverside Avenue and the new home of Spokane's masons.



The *Spokane Chronicle* displayed the “**New Home for the Knights of Pythias**” on the front page of its December 29, 1906 edition.

“The fine new home which the Knights of Pythias propose to erect in this city is expected to cost not less than \$45,000. The membership of the Spokane lodge numbers 711, and a booster committee is using its efforts to swell the membership to 1000. As soon as this is accomplished a permanent building committee is to be appointed which will have plans drafted and submitted, and work on the structure will be pushed with all possible speed.”

“F. P. Green, chairman of the booster committee, expresses confidence that by the first of July 1907, the result desired will be attained and construction will start immediately thereafter. ... The 3-story marble front building, 56x142 feet, would be on Front Avenue, 56 feet east of Post Street.”

*The Spokane Press* reported on March 15, 1907 that “**Knights Busy on Building Project.**” A committee of 25 members would be appointed by the Red Cross lodge to “settle on a policy to be pursued in regard to securing a new lodge building. A wide difference of opinion exists among the membership as to the best policy. Present quarters are too small and something must be done toward securing better. The lodge owns a fine business location on Front avenue near Post street, estimated worth between \$25,000 and \$30,000, which is available for building purposes.

But, the building plans were put off and the marble edifice that would have graced Front Avenue would become a movie theater instead. The investment of the Red Cross lodge paid off handsomely as *The Spokesman-Review* reported on February 18, 1909:

**Front Lot Brings K. of P. \$41,000. Gain \$27,000 in Five Years.**

At a profit of \$27,000 in a little less than five years, the Knights of Pythias have sold their lot on the south side of Front avenue, between Post and Wall streets, for \$41,000.

...

Charles W. Clarke, chairman of the committee negotiating the sale of the property for the lodge, admitted last night that it has been sold, but said the purchaser had requested his name not be made public at present.

The Knights of Pythias bought the property five years ago for \$14,000 with the intention to improve it with a lodge building, but the ground became so valuable that it was decided to buy a less expensive lot and sell the Front avenue property, thereby raising a good part of the fund for the proposed building. Accordingly, about two months ago a lot at the southwest corner of Riverside Avenue and Jefferson street was bought for \$20,000. This lot is 52 feet on Riverside avenue, and from 142 to 157 feet deep, the variation being due to the street not running square with the lot. ...

Jumping ahead, *The Spokesman-Review* revealed the purchaser of the Knights of Pythias lot purchases on August 27, 1909:

**Shubert Theater on Front Avenue.**

The Shubert's new \$200,000 theater, to be built immediately in Spokane, will be located on First between Wall and Post and will incorporate the lot recently sold by the Knights of Pythias. The theater will duplicate the Maxine Elliott theater in New York but will be larger. The K of P had realized a large profit on the sale of their property. [opened 1910 as the American Theater, in 1930 the Post Street theater]

Building plans were again in the news as *The Spokesman-Review* announced "K. of P. Building New \$40,000 Home on March 14, 1909. According to the article:

**Plans Nearly Complete for Three-Story Structure at Riverside and Jefferson.  
Architecture is Ornate  
Cut Stone and Terra Cotta--Dance Hall 46x80—Banquet Hall, Lodge Room,  
Pipe Organ and Choir**

Plans for the new Knights of Pythias building which is to be erected at the southwest corner of Riverside avenue and Jefferson street are nearly completed by Architect R. C. Sweatt, and work will start within two or three weeks.

The building is Italian Renaissance architecture three stories high, and the ground dimensions are 50x150 feet. The Riverside avenue frontage is at an angle with the rest of the building.

A cut stone foundation five feet high will support a superstructure of brick and terra cotta. The windows are set in an arch extending from the foundation to the cornice. There will be two entrances, one for exclusive use of the Knights of Pythias and one for the general public.

In the basement will be a large banquet room, with kitchen, pantry, refrigerator and like equipment. The drill room for the uniform rank of the order will also be in the basement, as will the lavatory, cloak-room and the heating apparatus.

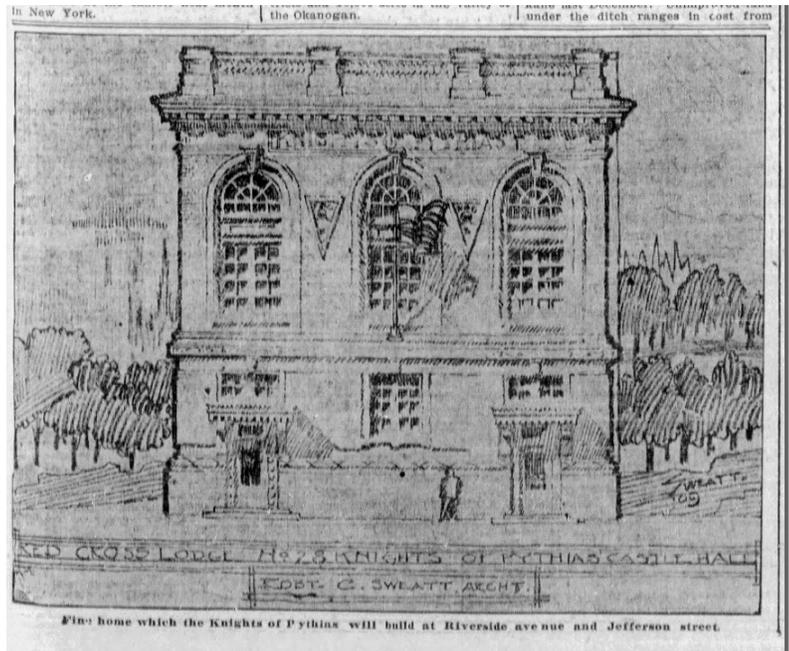
On the first or main floor will be a large dancing hall, 46x80 feet—the largest in the city, outside of the armory. At one end of the hall will be large parlors, a conservatory, and dressing rooms.

On the second floor will be the Knights of Pythias quarters. The lodge room is 46x80 feet, with ante rooms, coat room and storage room for the paraphernalia. There will be a smoking room with lavatory and toilet.

This floor will have a balcony which is to be equipped with a large pipe organ and choir.

The building will be equipped with a steam heating plant and will have a freight elevator. It will cost \$40,000.

In the year 1909, as the Knights were planning their lodge (although this version was not built as stated in the article nor was the rendering what was eventually built), the Spokane Club was announcing construction plans for a \$200,000 home at Riverside and Monroe in March, and in November, the Oddfellows were dedicating their new temple on First Avenue, just east of Madison Street. On November 1, the *Chronicle* reported:



12. "New Building Sketch." 3/14/1909. SR

### **"Dedicate Temple Tonight."**

Ceremonies at the Oddfellows' new three-story brick First Avenue home would include many out of town delegates, music and speeches. The Oddfellows, like the Knights, had also been planning for years and had shifted to different sites as well. They started in 1903 announcing a new three-story building on Mill Avenue and Main Street and selling their old temple in 1906. After failing to raise funds for its original six-story building plan, finally, in 1908, they settled on their site on First Avenue.

Finally on August 6, 1910, construction of the new Knights of Pythias was reported by the *Chronicle*. "Allow Contractor Additional Time." A disastrous fire at Union Iron Works had ruined a long, expensive steel girder, and delay building construction. An important structural member, it would be replaced and delivered by the iron works to the construction site. Pettifer Construction company indicated that about two to three more months would be needed to complete the big building.

A rendering by architect R. C. Sweatt of the "**New K. of P. Home on Riverside Avenue and Jefferson Street**" was depicted in the November 20, 1910 edition of *The Spokesman Review*. The Knights of Pythias Lodge was slated to open on December 20, 1910. The three-story temple cost about \$25,000 to building on a lot that had been recently purchased for \$20,000. The article noted the clinker brick and sterling stone trimmed that formed the exterior walls and the mission tile roof. "Brick designs are worked into the walls in the shape of four shields, emblems of the order. Two over the entrance are the tigers, emblematical of the Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan. The other two emblems are of the Red Cross Legion." It also described the interior rooms and

pointed out that there are no posts in the main halls. "A feature of the building is that the entire second floor is suspended by heavy girders, eliminating posts on the lower floor in the banquet and ballroom. The lodge room also is spared the inconvenience of posts by a truss supporting the ceiling."

The Chronicle announced in its May 5, 1911 edition:

#### **Will Dedicate Lodge Temple**

A force of workmen and mechanics was busy this morning putting the finishing touches on the new Knights of Pythias temple at Riverside avenue and Jefferson street, the property of Red Cross lodge No. 28, preparatory to the dedication exercises which will be held this evening. The last of the new furnishings, including two pianos were installed this morning and the decorations of flags and potted plants were put in place. During the afternoon until 5 o'clock the new building will be opened to the public for inspection, and the dedication exercises proper, open to members and their families only, will begin at 7:30 p.m. An address of welcome by Mayor W. J. Hindley and other short talks will be followed by an entertainment in the lodge room and dancing in the lower hall. The lodge hall on the second floor is two stories in height, having a balcony on three sides. ...

*The Spokesman-Review* looked at the "**New K. of P. Home on Riverside Avenue and Jefferson Street.**" And included a couple of photos in its May 14, 1911 edition.

Members of Red Cross lodge No. 28, Knights of Pythias of El Mabarraz temple No. 92, Dramatic Order Knights of Khorassan, have established themselves in the new \$50,000 Knights of Pythias temple at 1203 Riverside avenue, which was dedicated last week.

The building is attractively furnished an enclosed in the four walls of the structure is a large lodge room, banquet hall, reception room, kitchen, smoking room and paraphernalia room. The lodge room, well filled by members of the D.O.K.K, and a corner of the smoking room, is show above together with the exterior view of the temple. The K. of P. have 750 members ere, being the third largest lodge of the order in the world while there are 1200 members of the El Mabarra temple, D.O.K.K.

A year later the Riverside corner on which the Knights had built their new "castle" would be greatly enhanced by the creation of a lineal park outside the front door. On April 28, 1912 *The Spokesman-Review* wrote:

### TREES FOR RIVERSIDE – PARKING STRIPS WEST OF MONROE TO BLOOM.

Park Board Will Plan Seven Blocks With Grass, Trees and Foliage Plants.

Work will shortly be commenced by the park board in planting with trees and shrubs the parking strip on West Riverside avenue from Monroe street in front of the Spokane club to the intersection of Second avenue and Cedar street. The strip runs the length of practically seven blocks.

With the improvement of that portion of the avenue by paving a generous parking strip was left in the middle of the avenue between streets. The original plans called for the sowing of these with grass and setting out of shrubs along the entire stretch.

For several months the strips have contained nothing but unsightly gravel just as they were left by the contractors. Recently, however, property owners have urged the park board to complete the work. ...

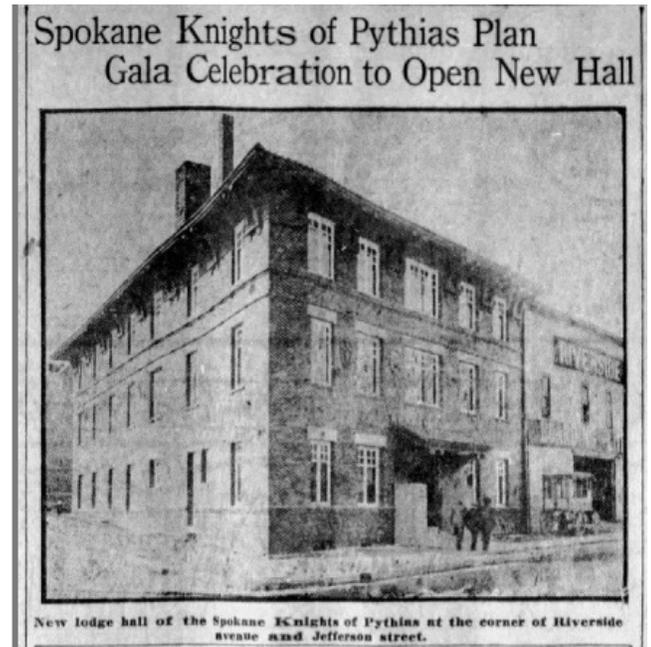
We will probably set out European lindens at regular intervals along the strip, as they appear to be the most suitable for that location.

A new Riverside Avenue neighbor added to the collection of fraternal lodge halls in 1920 when the Elks Temple was opened. *The Spokesman-Review* informed of the slated opening in its August 22, 1920 edition: "**Spokane Lodge of Elks to Occupy New Temple in January.**" The new \$275,000 edifice next to the Masonic Temple was like the other lodge halls in the city years in the making. The Elks had considered several options, including buying Jay P. Graves \$125,000 mortgage on the new Spokane Club, as well as building a six-story building at Fourth Avenue and Howard Street.

The Mason's would add the last piece to the fraternal flavor of Riverside Avenue. It had announced on January 23, 1920 that they would double the size of their existing temple and had just purchased the property adjacent to the west to fill in the space between their current temple and the new Elks lodge. The Masons would spend \$750,000 on the building which was dedicated in June 5, 1925.

The Knights operated from the Riverside castle into the 1960s when they decided to sell their building and move to a new location. [Within the west end, the Oddfellows, the Elks, and the Masons also sold their lodge halls; only the Spokane Club remains open.] Although membership numbers could not be obtained, the national trend was the declining participation in fraternal and civic organizations as pointed out by Putnam in "Bowling Alone." According to Putnam (p55.), "On average, across all fraternal organizations, membership rates began to plateau around 1957, peaked in the early 1960s, and began the period of sustained decline by 1969.

The 1960 and 1961 Polk Directory in listing the Knights of Pythias Hall also included: the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers No. 54, the Ladies Auxiliary Mellon Division; the



13. "Gala Celebration Planned. May 14, 1911 - SR

Brotherhood of Railway Conductors Local 348; and the Brotherhood of Railway Conductors Local 284 Ladies Auxiliary.

**“Pythian Hall is Purchased by Red Cross”** reported *The Spokesman-Review* on January 16, 1962. After fifty years, the Red Cross lodge of the Knights of Pythias had sold their lodge hall to the American Red Cross for a sum of \$47,500. The American Red Cross would take possession on April 1, 1962. Wayne Madren, a trustee for the Red Cross Lodge No. 128 of the Knights of Pythias, said future plans of the lodge were yet to be determined. Madren said the lodge planned eventually to either purchase a new building but would probably rent a meeting place in the meanwhile. The American Red Cross had been looking for several years for suitable quarters to adequately provide its many services and programs. The building would be remodeled to accommodate their operations.

In April 30, 1962, a building permit was issued to Kop Construction on behalf of American Red Cross, owner, for interior alterations with a value \$53,000.

Although not listed in the Polk Directory after 1965, the Knights of Pythias Red Cross chapter would continue to hold meetings and events at the Woman’s Club, Ninth and Walnut, through the 1980s; the last meeting notice in the local newspaper being in January 1980.

The American Red Cross, Spokane County and Inland Empire Chapters, occupied the building until 1977 and sold the building to the firm of TSG Architects. The firm of Nielsen, Trogdon, Smith Grossman Architects had its first listing in Polk in 1978. Several building permits for electrical and mechanical work were issued in 1978 to Trogdon-Smith-Grossman Architects for work on their newly acquired building. The interior remodels provided office space to business firms in addition to their own office. These included through the 1980s and 1990s: McDirmid Mikkelsen & Secrest CPAs; Stephen Berde B. Associates, Retirement Planners, and Winfield & Associates.

The firm of NAC Architecture was formed in 1979 when two long-established Spokane architectural firms merged. One of the original firms, Trogdon, Smith & Grossman, was founded in 1960 as Trogdon, Smith Architects, and the other, Tan, Brooke & Kundig, started in 1970. It did business as Northwest Architectural Co. The firm underwent a major expansion with an addition to the rear (south) end of the building in 2008.

#### **Development of the Knights of Pythias Block**

The block on which the Knights of Pythias Lodge resides is unique in downtown Spokane for its triangular shape resulting from the merge of the park strip of Riverside Avenue and Sprague Avenue at Cedar Street. Jefferson Street forms the eastern boundary. Riverside is a boulevard street and the foundation of the Riverside Avenue National Historic District.

The 1889 Sanborn Insurance Map shows that the block in which the K. of P. building is located was occupied by the Unitarian Church at the southeast corner of Sprague and Jefferson and the M.E. Church on Sprague near mid-block. Two vacant lots and a lot with two dwellings were between the churches. The rounded apex parcel west of the ME Church was undeveloped. Fronting to the north along Riverside near mid-block was a dwelling and undeveloped parcels, including the subject site to the east.

In the next year, 1890, “Holderman’s Livery” fronted on Riverside next to the vacant lot on the corner of Jefferson Street—the site of the future Knights of Pythias Lodge.

The 1902 Sanborn depicted the future K.of P. as “Wagon Shed” with a frame building to its south and the “Hearse & Buggy Ho.” and the “Riverside Livery, feed and sales stables,” adjacent to the west. The Unitarian Church remained on the southeast corner, with vacant lots to its west along Sprague Avenue. Two dwellings now occupied the parcels adjacent to the east of the M.E. Church. Two dwellings were also adjacent to the west of the church with the apex curve at the west end vacant.

The 1910 Sanborn shows a significant transition had taken place on the block after 1902. The west end of the block was now occupied by the three-story brick San Marco apartment building (1905, NRHD), that in a “V” floor plan, occupied frontages on both Sprague Avenue and Riverside Avenue. To the east, and fronting on Riverside, was the two-story wood frame Riverside Apartments (1903, future Edwidge). A six-foot walkway separated the two buildings. The parcel east of the future Edwidge was undeveloped; a wagon shed and a livery were in the next two lots, and a “Lodge Hall” (Knights of Pythias, 1911) was depicted on the northeast corner of the block “from plans.” Along Sprague Avenue, the “1<sup>st</sup> Unitarian Church” remained on the southeast corner of the block and 50 feet east was a three-story brick apartment building (built in 1905, that would become the Myrtle). Adjacent to the west of the future Myrtle Apartment building were two dwelling units and filling in the lot between the dwellings and San Marco was a three-story brick apartment building.

The 1928 update to the 1910 Sanborn Map showed the “K. of P. Castle” with open land on its west and south sides occupied the northeast corner of the block. To the west, was a vacant lot, a one-story brick garage and the three-story brick and concrete Edwidge Apartments that had replaced the fire-damaged Riverside Apartments in 1912. On the southeast corner of the block two masonry buildings, one labeled “Autos” in the northwest corner of the parcel and a small building “Off.” in the southeast corner replaced the church. The Myrtle Apartments occupied the entire lot, the three-story brick rear section added in 1913. The two dwellings west of the Myrtle were removed and the apartments to the west remained. The San Marco three-story brick apartment building anchored the west end apex.

The 1958 Sanborn map indicated the following changes to the block: the three-story apartment building south of the Edwidge was removed and the two adjacent lots between the Edwidge and Myrtle apartment buildings were vacant (parking lot); the San Marco remained; the two lots adjacent to the east were now occupied by a service station and auto supply shop with the Knights of Pythias anchoring the northeast corner. The lot in the southeast corner of the block was occupied by a cluster of auto repair buildings and used auto sales.

#### **Existing buildings formerly housing Fraternal Lodges:**

Several of the buildings that housed these organizations are extant in downtown and include:

- American Legion Building/ Spokane Club, 108 N. Washington, 1901, (retail and offices), NRHP, SRHP
- Masonic Temple, 1108 W. Riverside, 1905, 1925 (Entertainment, event hall), NRHD, SRHP
- Moose Lodge Hall, 408-414 W. Sprague, 1905 (A-Club), NRHD
- Oddfellows, 1017 First Avenue, 1909 (Montvale event hall) SRHP, NRHD
- Foresters of America Hall. 39 W. Pacific, 1910 (winery, events) SRHP, NRHD
- Knights of Pythias, 1203 W. Riverside, 1911 (NAC Architects,) NRHD
- Spokane Club, 1002 W. Riverside, 1911 (Spokane Club), NRHP, SRHP
- Odin Hall of Scandinavian Brotherhood in the F. C. Robertson Building, 307 W. Riverside. 1912-1913 (Glenn Dow), NRHD, SRHP
- Sons of Norway Building, 311 W. Riverside, 1912 (Glenn Dow), NRHD, SRHP
- Elks Temple, 1116 W. Riverside, 1920 (North Coast Insurance), NRHD, SRHP

- Fraternal Order of Eagles, 174 S. Howard, 1923 (Apartments) NRHD
- Grand Army of the Republic, 115 N Washington (law offices), SRHP

**Robert Sweatt, Architect (1872 -1949)**

Robert C. Sweatt was born in Chicago in 1872 and educated in architecture at Columbia University. While residing in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, Mr. Sweatt designed an addition to the National Register-listed Chippewa County Courthouse in Michigan. He and his wife Jennie, following his parents, moved to Spokane 1904 or 1905. Once in Spokane, he formed a partnership with fellow architect Lewis R. Stritesty. The firm designed several exceptional buildings, including the Shoshone County Courthouse in Wallace, Idaho, the Westminster Apartments (NRHP, SRHP) in Browne's Addition, and the Schade Brewery buildings (NRHP, SRHP) on Trent Avenue. After dissolving the partnership, Mr. Sweatt worked independently and designed the Peyton Building Annex (NRHP, SRHP), the Lever Hotel, and the Knights of Pythias Temple. He moved to the west coast for a short period, during which time he engaged in a brief partnership with prominent architect Joseph Levesque, with whom he designed several schools, including the Reid School in Bend, Oregon, a high school in Newport, Washington and a school building in Metolius, Oregon. Additionally, Mr. Sweatt served as the official architect of the Spokane school board, in which capacity he designed the Hillyard High School, which was completed in 1912 (SRHP).

In 1918, Sweatt changed careers and became a salesman for the Canadian affiliate of the H. W. Johns-Manville Company and lived in the Royal Mansions in Vancouver, BC. Sweatt and his wife resided in Vancouver BC through the 1940s, but he passed away in Vancouver, Washington on December 30, 1949.

**Pettifer Construction company, building contractor**

A summary of Pettifer's work was provided in an article in the May 24, 1910 edition of the *Chronicle*:

**Start Active Construction on a Big Business Building.**

The Pettifer Construction company of Spokane, which as the contract for the erection of a number of local buildings, is now laying brick on the new home of the Ideal laundry at the northwest corner of Boone avenue and Ruby street. ... The company has just completed excavation for the Newman block to be erected at the SE corner of First avenue and Jefferson Street. This is to be a five-story and basement hotel structure that will cost \$35,000. In addition, they are erecting the \$25,000 K. of P. building, the Ritzville high school, a \$3,500 building in Thompson, MT. They are also constructing the Lever Building at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Howard—a \$125,000 building with 169 rooms with Robert Sweatt as architect. The officers of the company are J. A. Pettifer, president, and C.W. Pettifer, secretary and manager. Other buildings constructed by Pettifer include a new school at Lind in 1908, and also in 1908 "Three Buildings to Cost \$52,000" including a 3-story brick on Main and Bernard, a 3-story brick apartment house at the northwest corner of Pacific and Spruce, a 3-story apartment house at 4<sup>th</sup> between Bernard and McClellan, and a guardhouse at Fort Wright. The \$35,000 Othello school was constructed in 1909.

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- . "Victor Dessert of the Pacific Hotel the New Owner." 2/8/1900. p1:7.
- . "Investment by Knights." 9/2/1902. p2:3.
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- . "Pythian Lodges Unite. 2/27/1906. p10:5.
- . "Front Lot Brings K. of P. \$41,000. 2/18/1909. p9:1.
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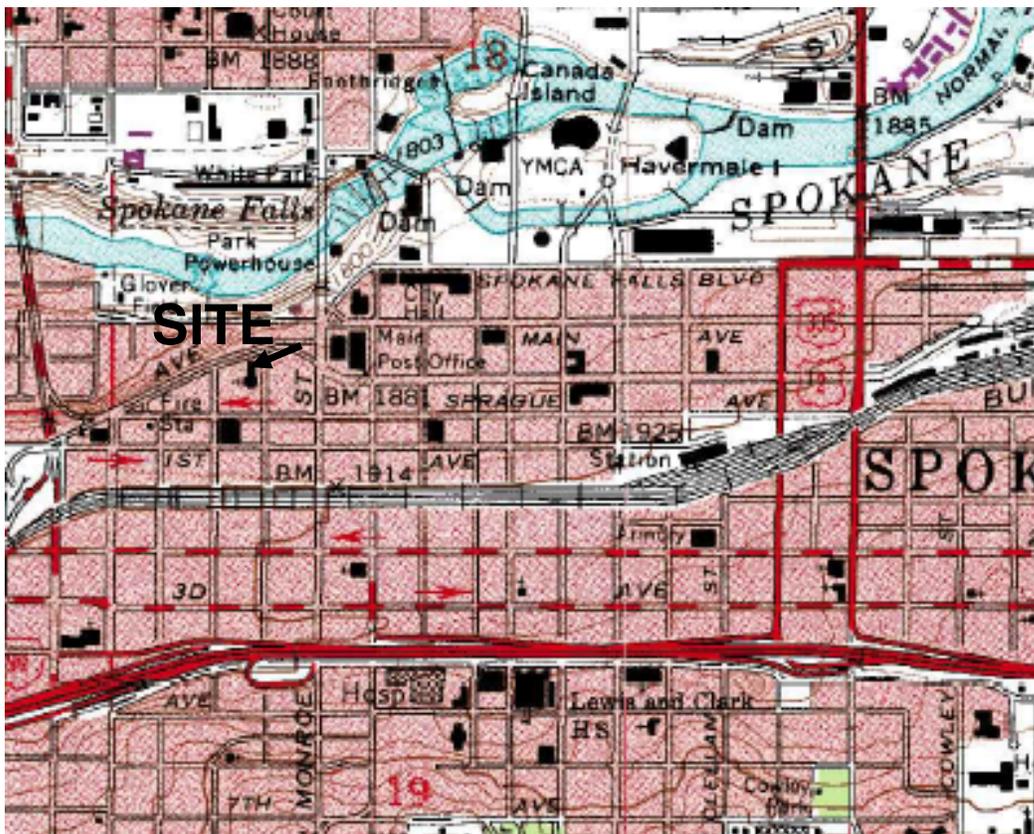
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## **MAPS, GRAPHICS AND PHOTOS**



USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle. Spokane NW, Wash. 1974. Photorevised 1986

**KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS LODGE HALL**  
**1203 WEST RIVERSIDE AVENUE**  
**SITE LOCATION**

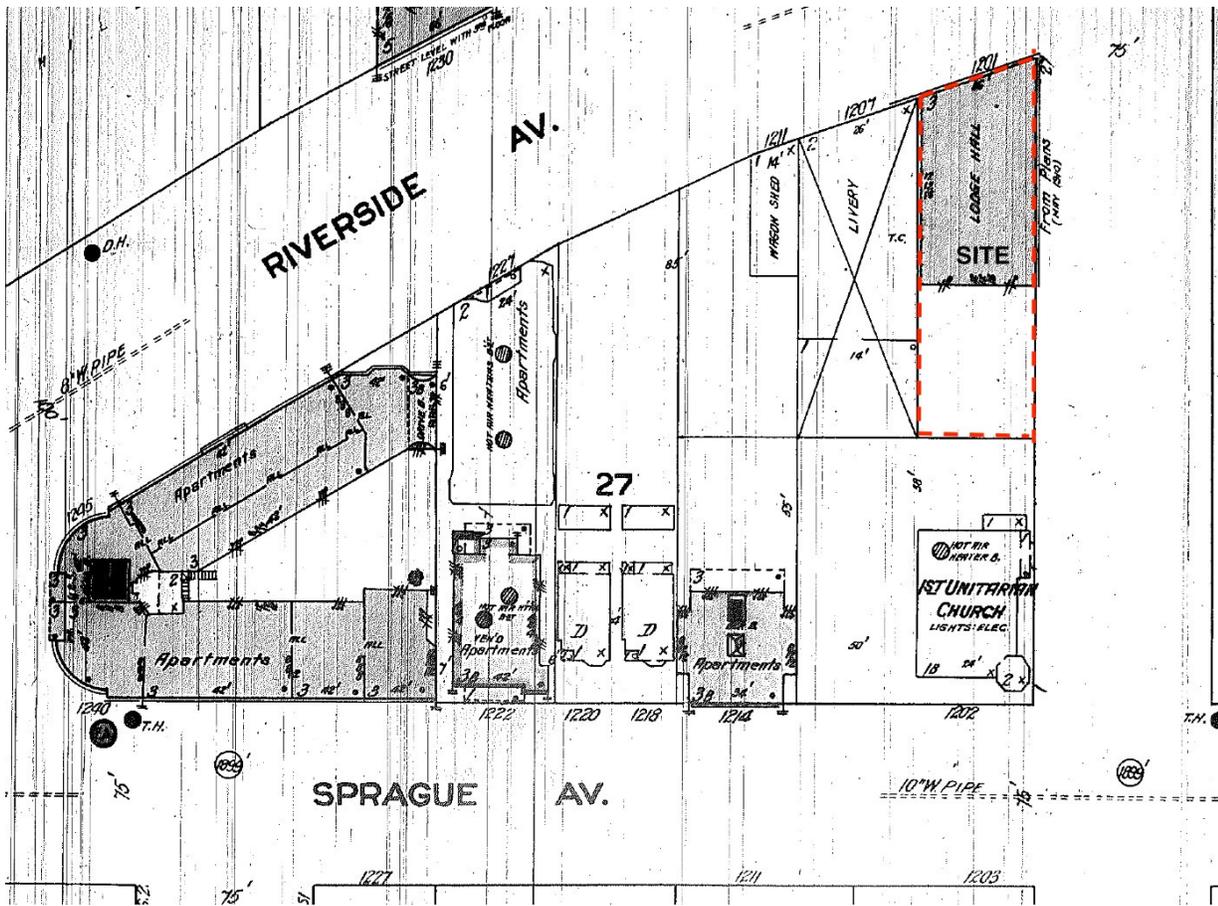
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1' = 2000'

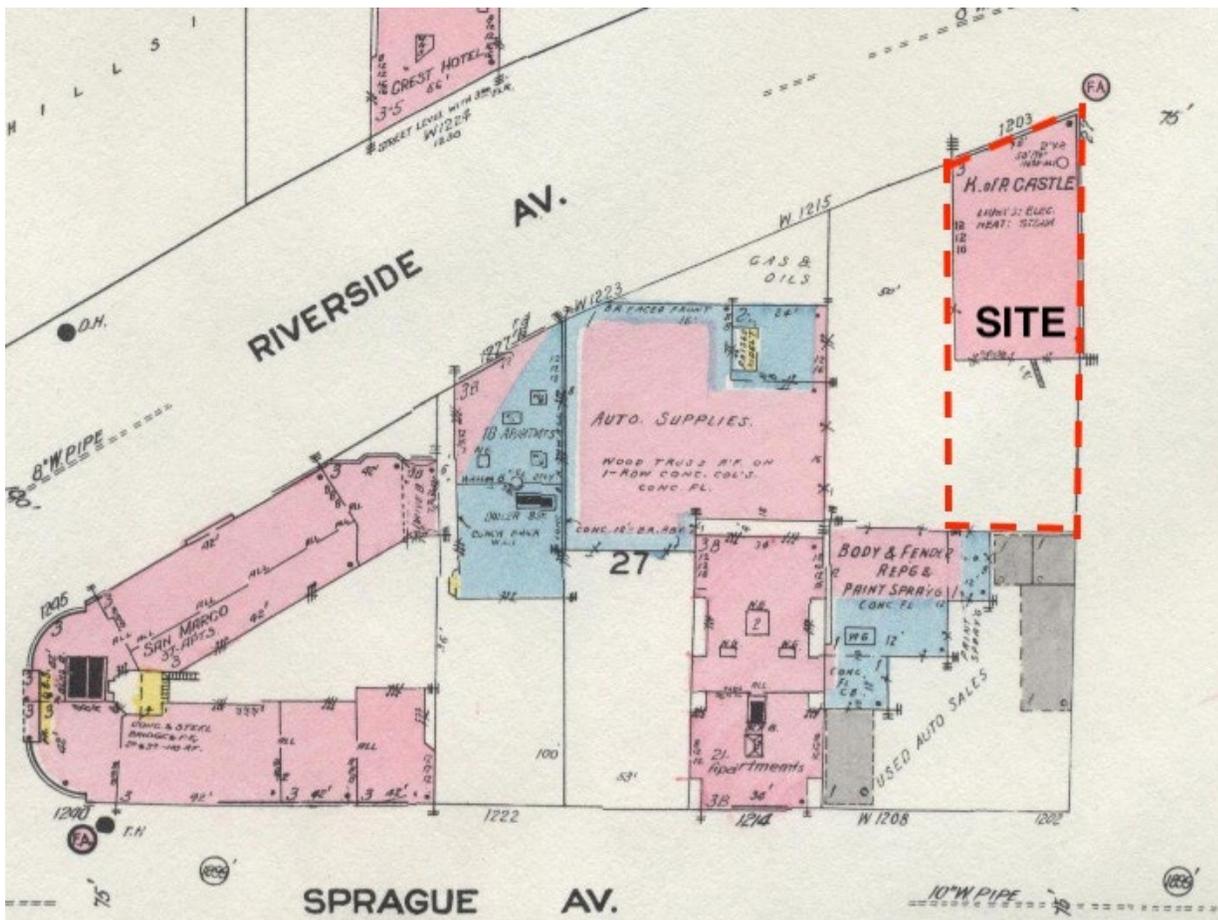


Spokane City Map 2021

**KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS LODGE HALL**  
**1203 WEST RIVERSIDE AVENUE**  
**SITE LOCATION**

↑  
N  
No scale













9. Tiger head on front facade, looking south







15. East facade - roof eaves, cornice and brackets, looking up and north

