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AN ELKS LODGE FOR B.P.O. ELKS NO. 1611, CODY, WYOMING

Undergraduate Thesis in Architecture Design

By

Robert J. Karhu

Submitted to the School of Architecture as
partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of Bachelor of Architecture

At

Montana State University

Bozeman, Montana

December 1969

P378
K1455

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Cody, Wyoming
December, 1969

Mr. James Gough
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Dear Mr. Gough:

I herewith submit the enclosed terminal project report entitled "A B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 1611 in Park County for Cody, Wyoming", as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Architecture.

Yours truly,

Robert J. Karhu

Robert J. Karhu

RJK/jf

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S .

The author wishes to express his appreciation to the following individuals for their assistance in preparation of this thesis:

John Fraker, Secretary of B.P.O. Elks #385, Tucson, Arizona

Hoyt Wells, Manager of B.P.O. Elks #385, Tucson, Arizona

Ellery Greene, Professor of Architecture, University of Arizona

Livingston Engineering, County Surveyors, Cody, Wyoming

Cody B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 1611, Cody, Wyoming

John DeHaas, Professor of Architecture, Montana State University

Jim Rader, Professor of Architecture, Montana State University

Hugo Eck, Professor of Architecture, Montana State University

ABSTRACT OF THESIS

The function of a B.P.O. Elks Lodge (The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks), is to provide an atmosphere of a fraternal and social order for the members of its status.

With the various trends in the nation's economic and social temper, private fraternal organizations of today are playing a greater role in the lives of their members.

The purpose of this study is to analyze these new trends and also the older, previously existing social conditions of this selected group, the site, and the internal functions of an Elks lodge in order to paint a direction for the development of a building type that will provide the desired atmosphere.

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CONDITIONS CREATING A NEED

The present B.P.O. Elks Lodge 1611, located in Cody, Wyoming was built in 1947 with an anticipated twenty-year projectional growth. Presently, the facilities of the lodge are inadequate, because of the large membership (1100 members) and the variety of new activities sponsored by the lodge.

Because of the present buildings location, relationship to the site, and the structure itself, consideration for future expansion of present facilities was determined impractical by the Trustee's of the lodge. The existing site and facilities could be sold to a smaller organization or lodge (American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, etc.) found within the community.

The creation of a need can be characterized in three categories: 1) increasing membership, 2) inadequate space and facilities, and 3) the addition of activities presently not available.

Increase in Membership

In 1960 the Cody B.P.O. Elks Lodge had a membership of 600. At present the membership is almost 1200, an increase of approximately 80 members per year. This increase has been steadily growing with little sign of reaching a yielding point. Often many activities such as family dinners and various other functions of the lodge are done in shifts due to the lack of facilities and large participation.

Inadequate Space and Facilities

Being a member of Lodge 1611, I have heard many comments concerning the inadequacies in facilities and the lack of needed space. Areas such

as the kitchen, bar, office space, and dining and dancing areas lack adequate space or facilities to accommodate the present membership.

Desired Activities not Available

Changing times brought a change in use of lodge facilities by its members who found more and more needs for luncheons and dining facilities. Other functions that have been desired by the members are more pool tables, game room, steam room, and sufficient parking facilities.

Many of these functions could be remodeled within the present structure, but due to the limited space that now exists, these functions have been ignored by the building committees.



Existing B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 1611

HISTORY OF THE ELKS

The Order of Elks was born February 16, 1868 as a convivial group that liked to meet on Sundays. It quickly evolved into a benevolent fraternity or brotherhood to aid the theatrical and literary professions. Within twenty years, the Order had out grown this role. Elkdom was a rapidly growing, increasingly powerful body beginning to have nationwide significance. The Order was still fraternal, but an organization which now responded to national disasters like the Johnstown flood, the Galveston tidal wave, and the San Francisco fire and earthquake. It was clearly showing a national conscience. Elks were no longer concerned only with their own members, but with all America.

The development of the Elks into a consciously patriotic organization was by no means inevitable, but it happened in the 1890's. The reason was the kinds of men who had come into the Order. They had roots in their communities and a strong affection for their country.

In 1890, Elks for the first time were required to be citizens of the United States. This made Elkdom a unique American order. It hastened conscious patriotism and it emphasized the drift away from the purely convivial aspects of being an Elk. The new breed of the banker, railroad man, politician, and businessman who began to fill the chairs of the lodges rapidly altered Elkdom's social role.

In 1896, the Grand Lodge recommended that the altar drapery shall be the flag of the United States, upon which the Bible shall rest, surmounted by the antlers. This was the first use of the flag by the Order.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, emphatically and exclusively an American order, in this hour of the nation's appeal to patriotism in defense of its rights and the rights of humanity, responds to its sense of duty, its love of country, and its devotion to the great American ideas which gave it birth.

Elkdom was on record as an organization with patriotic sentiment. But actions always speak louder than words. Three things stand out concerning the Elks, first, great services to the nation. The Order was true to its standing tradition: Elks first concern was for the weak, the wounded, the disabled, or the defenseless. Over these, whether forgotten soldiers in over-crowded hospitals or 1,000 waifs starving in Central Europe, the antlers of protection were spread.

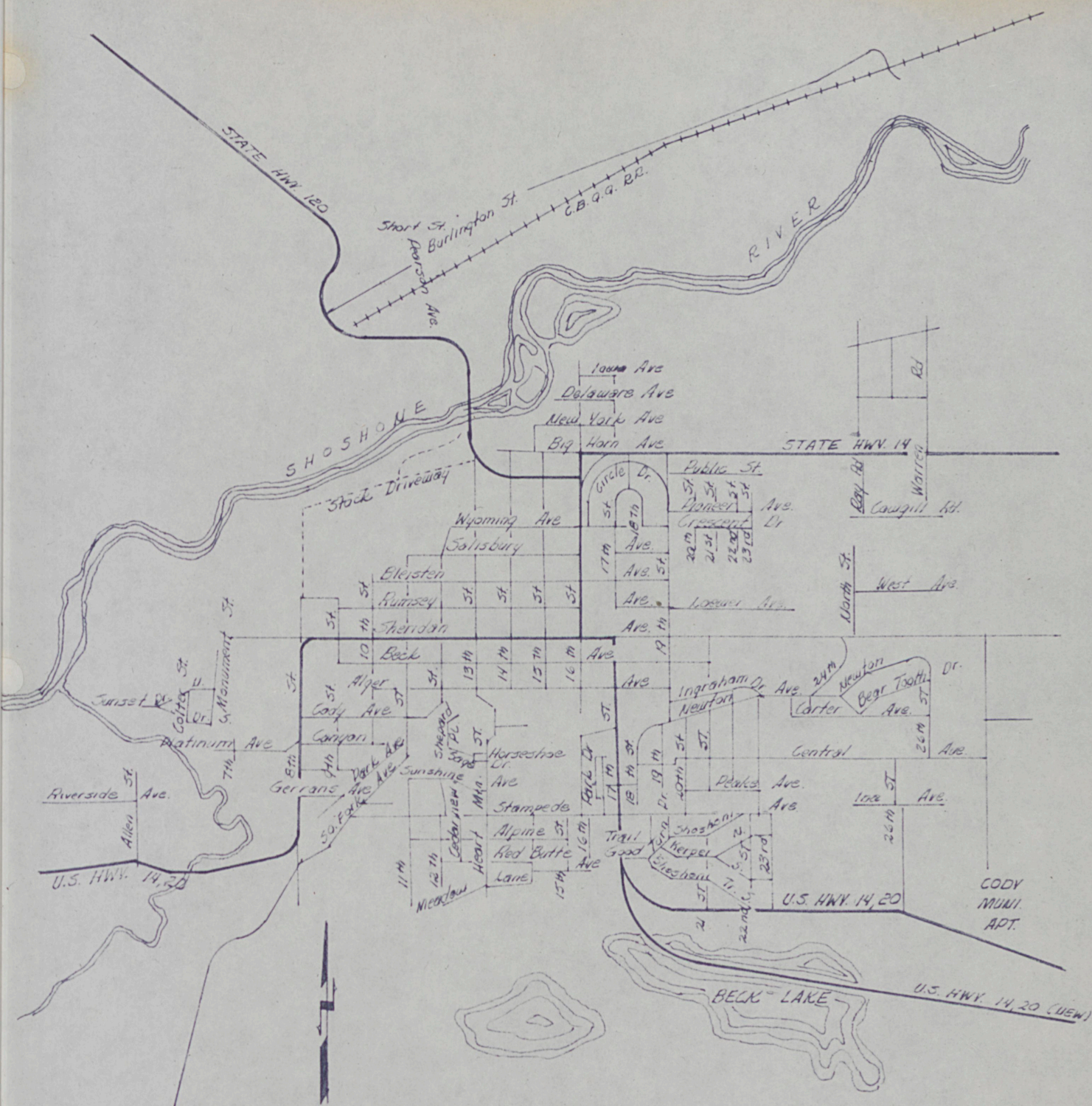
Second, the Elks looked beyond the war, to the time when the fires of war-induced patriotic fever would die and the victims of the war would be forgotten. As a Congressman, speaking in 1920 of the Vocational Education program said "... Foremost among such volunteer agencies, acting both as a whole and individually, came the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks ... This great Order seemed to sense with prophetic vision the frightful consequences of war, and proceeded to set in motion and bring to successful fruition of achievement through its Elks War Relief Commission, a service most essential and timely which had not been anticipated or performed by any other agency." (1:47)

Third, Elks did it all quietly and by themselves. Elkdom has been highly influential in the development of the American youth. They have become personally involved with the problems of the so called "incorrigible youth". The lodge sponsored the Boy Scouts first in 1910 and has continued to do so. They have worked behind the scenes with the youth today on

local and national levels.

With state associations and with dozens of different programs growing organically at the grass roots, the framework of Elks operation was also set. This was going to be strong enough to survive the coming era of great and incisive change in America, through good times and bad.

As the Order develops in our communities today, the "great heart of Elkdom" beats in its thousands of odd lodge rooms. This is the way Elks wanted it and time proved their basic wisdom.



MAP of CODY, WYOMING

LOCAL CONDITIONS

Geographical

Cody, the county seat of Park County, is 5015 feet above sea level and is located in the northwest part of Wyoming in the area known as the Big Horn Basin. Yellowstone National Park is 53 miles west of Cody. U.S. Highway 14, 16, 20 serve Cody from east to west. U.S. 14 Alternate and Wyoming Highway 120 serve the city north and south respectively. Billings, Montana is 105 miles north and Casper, Wyoming 214 miles southeast.

History

Colonel William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, founder of the city of Cody, first entered the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming in the 1870's while guiding O. C. March, distinguished geologist of Yale University, who was making a study of the natural resources of the West.

The tremendous possibilities for development of land through irrigation, the rich soil, the grandeur of the scenery, the abundance of fish and game, and the proximity of Yellowstone National Park all were influencing factors in the decision of Colonel Cody to return during the mid-1890's

The Colonel and several friends came to the area with the purpose of land development and the building of a community. The original town-site selected was located at the east end of the Shoshone Canyon, but was later moved to the present site of the city. The site was named Cody in 1895 at the insistence of Colonel Cody's fellow developers.

By 1902, the town was incorporated. The Burlington Railroad built a spur into the new town. A road was pioneered to the east entrance of

Yellowstone National Park. To bolster the economy of the new town, Colonel Cody persuaded his friend, President Teddy Roosevelt to establish the Bureau of Reclamation and to build the Shoshone Dam and Reservoir. With the completion of this dam, the highest in the world at that time, the community was established soundly in the irrigation and electric power fields. Also, through his friendship with the President, Colonel Cody helped establish the Shoshone National Forest and the first ranger station at Wapiti.

The organization of the Cody Club, Cody's Chamber of Commerce in 1901, the Cody Stampede and Rodeo in 1922; the dedication of various structures of the Buffalo Bill Memorial Association including the Gertrude Whitney Statue of Colonel Cody in 1924, the Buffalo Bill Museum in 1927, the Whitney Gallery of Western Art in 1959, and the Plains Indian Museum in 1968; have all been steps in the development of the city.

Perhaps the greatest asset of Cody is the continuation of the spirit of individual accomplishment of western hospitality, honesty and friendliness and joint cooperation of the citizens as was instilled by early settlers. That spirit prevails and is manifested today on the streets and in the homes of Cody people.

Climate

The average annual precipitation is a little over (9) nine inches. The climate is considered semi-arid. The topography of the region favors Cody with higher average temperature during the winter months than is usually expected in mountainous country. January is the coldest month with a daily average of 36.6°F. July is the warmest month with a daily average of 85.5°F.

Wind

Many times during the year wind gusts from 60-80 miles per hour have been reported within the Cody community. Wind gusts have ripped roofing from buildings, overturned trailer homes, and ripped trees from the ground.

Population

The 1960 Federal Census lists the city of Cody as having a population of 4,838 with an additional 1,000 persons living adjacent to the city limits. Park County population in 1960 was 16,874.

Economy

Cody's economy is based mainly on agriculture, tourism, petroleum production, and refining and gypsum board manufacturing. Processing plants include Husky Oil Refinery, Big Horn Gypsum Company, and the Cody Lumber Mill.

Approximately one million tourists visit the Cody area each year. Many of Cody's local businesses provide the necessary services needed to facilitate this booming economy.

SITE CONDITIONS

Site Selection

A great deal of study must be given to the selection of a site, enabling the club to establish and maintain itself with economic stability that is well established and readily recognizable.

In order to achieve the former effectively, the membership must always be of a programmed size to make the operation financially sufficient. With this in mind, the site must be of proximity to a source of desired members, so that it will not limit itself in reaching maximum operations.

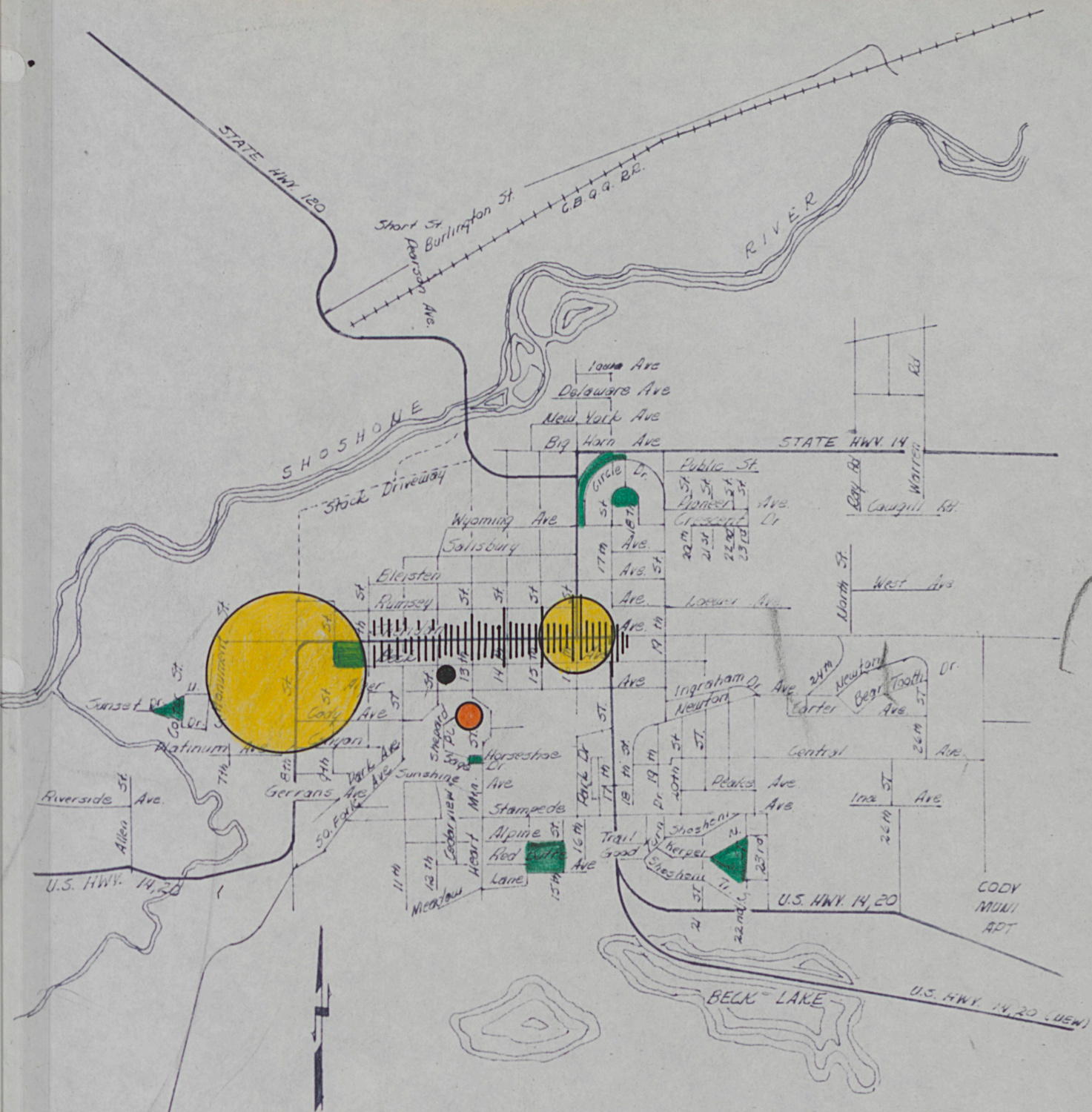
The site should be located in an area that possesses an established prestige. It's to be located in a land position that may be easily and quickly reached from outside the immediate area. In this way the lodge will be in possession of the ultimate; not only in membership that represents a local group and a more diversified regional group, but also in a large number of prospective members from which to choose selectively, a membership which the lodge may be assured will be active and able to support the lodge financially.

Having established an economically feasible area for possible site location, the next goal is to find a specific site that will answer the aesthetics and technical needs of an Elks Lodge. These are factors which we are more familiar with. Some of these needs are already answered by limiting the location choice by the economic consideration. If the area possesses an established desirability and prestige factor for home sites, then it also possesses the same factors for an Elks Lodge. This statement simplifies the problem to a certain extent, but is generally

true. Any additional memorable features of the topography are an asset to the lodge. These features could be in the nature of mountains views or pleasant geographical area views.

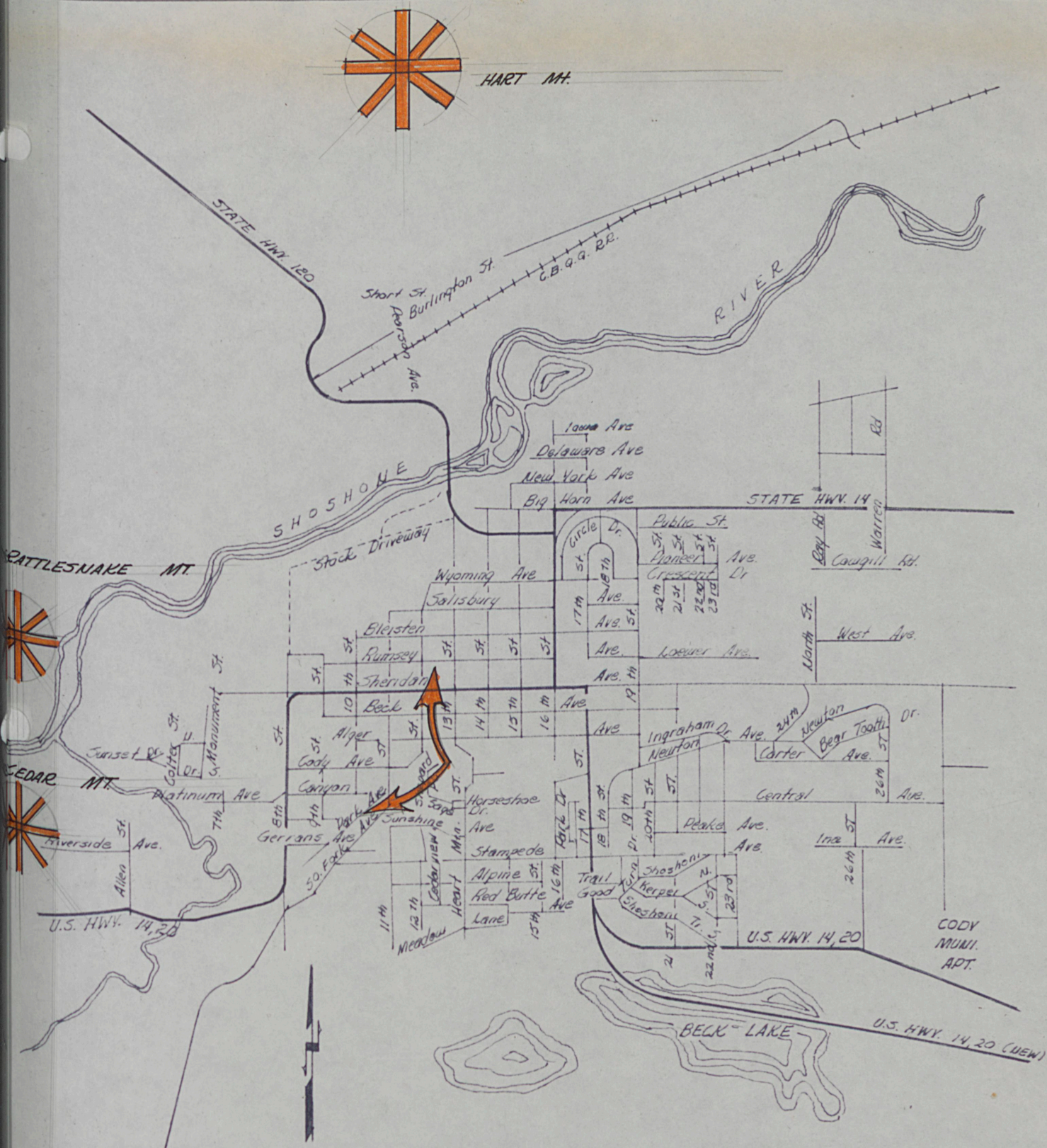
Site Analysis

The terrain and scale of the natural growth achieves the architectural character of my proposal. The site is covered with small cedar bushes, sage brush, and small rock outcroppings. The soil is of a loam and gravel nature with minor outcroppings of rock on the side. It is my intention to retain as much as possible of the growth and natural foothill character.



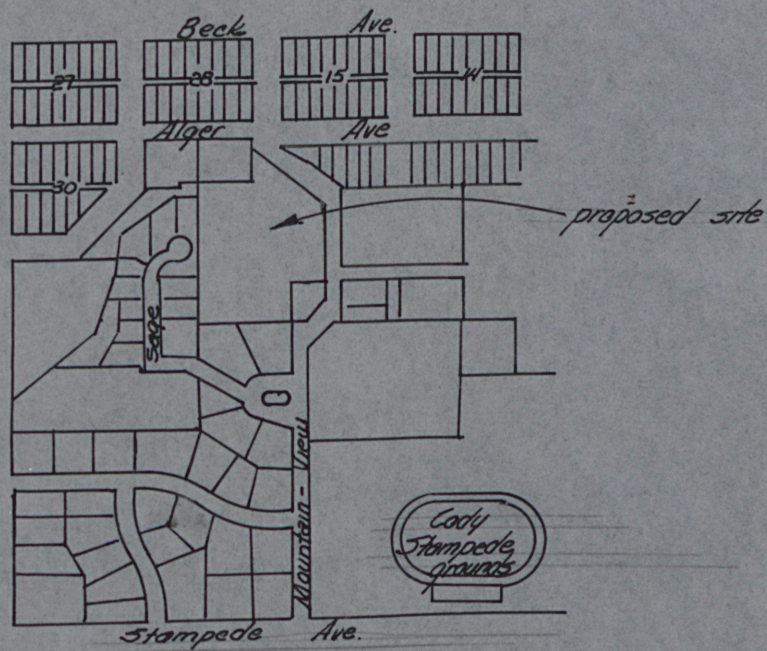
MAP of CODY, WYOMING

-  Central Business District
-  Major nodes (museums, circulation, parks, school)
-  Parks
-  Proposed Site
-  Existing Site



MAP of CODY, WYOMING

location of geographical views





View from site - looking North



View from site - looking West



- a. View from North edge of site
 looking West
 b. North view at crest of hill.
 c. Slope of hill.
 d. Northwest view.
 e. Southwest view



THE PROBLEM

The very nature of the basic functions produces the greatest problems involved in the creation of the desired "architecture." We are dealing with two functional aspects; that of social aspects and that of the ethical conditions found in the lodge itself and its members. All functional aspects may occur at the same time during the day or evening.

The problem is to design a building that will allow these aspects of the lodge to function smoothly and within the design create an architectural character that will reflect the many desired atmospheres.

PRELIMINARY SUPPOSITIONS

1. The membership will be composed of B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 1611 members and families. It is further assumed that dues paid by members and profit obtained from the bar and various other activities will maintain the operation of the lodge.
2. Life of the proposed lodge is estimated at thirty years.
3. To create a building of a character that will house the many activities of a B.P.O. Elks lodge. It is my intentions, considering the formal and informal atmosphere, the topography and natural growth on the site, to design a lodge that is in the site as opposed to on the site. At present, it appears to me that a building in the site by its very nature tends itself to more possibilities in an attempt to achieve a blending of formal and informal aspects of the lodge. This type of solution will blend well with the topography and natural growth of the site, maintaining a silhouette in scale with the low natural growth and hugging to the rough contours rather than perched above them.
4. In our present society where man and woman are subjected to the fast pace of living and working each day, the lodge should be a place to relax, meet friends, and to participate in Elkdom.

FUNCTIONS OF THE LODGE

Membership in the Elks is limited to white male citizens of the United States of America, of good character, and not under the age of twenty-one years, and who believe in God.

The building is open from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Monday through Sunday and is closed on specific holidays. Every member has a pass key or card identification to the building.

Many functions and activities within the building may be attended by men, women, or young people.

Lounge

The club lounge is a stopping off or meeting place located in the entry way of the lodge. It should be easily accessible to the cocktail lounge and dining rooms and provide entrance to men's and women's toilets, powder room, coat room, and reception desk. The lounge should be pleasing, warm, inviting, and create an inter-social atmosphere. As an entry, it should be located so it can be easily recognized from any approach to the lodge.

Cocktail Lounge

The main cocktail lounge should be located in the social portion of the lodge. It is close to the dining rooms and main lounge. It should contain a bar and tables or possibly cocktail tables served from a bar that is out of sight. The lounge should not be visible from the dining room. Toilets should be easily accessible.

Bar

The main bar should be equipped with the latest bar equipment. Each bartender needs a complete bar set-up which includes washing, mixing,

and back bar storage facilities. Mirrors around the backbar enhance the bar and add to the sparkle of glasses and bottles. Seating at the bar should not be fixed but rather flexible.

The bar area may be sequestered to give it the required atmosphere of intimacy and privacy from the dining areas, at the same time maintain all possible feeling of spaciousness in fairly close overall quarters. Intimacy is sought through the use of warm dark colors and subdued lighting.

Dining Room

This area includes a main dining room, two or more private dining rooms, and possibly a dining patio or terrace. All groups should be served conveniently from a central kitchen.

The main dining area is to be arranged so that it may function efficiently for large as well as small groups. In most cases when large dances are held, the dining space is cleared of tables to provide a large dance area. However, the table arrangement should be of such a nature that there is still a free dancing area when the maximum number of tables are in use. Private dining rooms must be completely private with a separate entrance screened from the diners in the main room. This room may double as private party rooms.

Teenage Room

These facilities should consist of a rumpus room area containing a vending machine, television, ping pong tables, and a lounge. The room itself should be in an area out of the main flow of events so that the teenagers will feel that they have an area of their own.

Card Room

This is primarily an area for the members of the lodge to play cards in the afternoon. The space should be well lighted and if possible have a pleasant view. It should be convenient to the lounge and bar area.

Reading Room

An area of quiet relaxation within the lodge. It may be utilized by the younger as well as the older members of the lodge. It should be located in a quiet area, but as close to the main lounge as possible. It is desirable to have a pleasant view. Magazines and limited numbers of bound volumes should be available in this room.

Administration Function

The operation of a lodge is much the same as the operation of a medium-sized business with such needs as adequate clerical facilities. Facilities for bookkeeping records, correspondence, storage for office supplies, mimeograph equipment and a sizable vault should be present. The administrative area includes a private office for club manager, secretary's office, mailing room, and accounting department.

Conference Room

A room that is closely related to the administrative area. The room shall contain a large conference table and comfortable chairs. The space is to be adequately lighted and have facilities for charts, statistical studies, projection equipment and screen. Area is to be used by Trustee's and various committees of the lodge. Seating is for ten to twenty individuals.

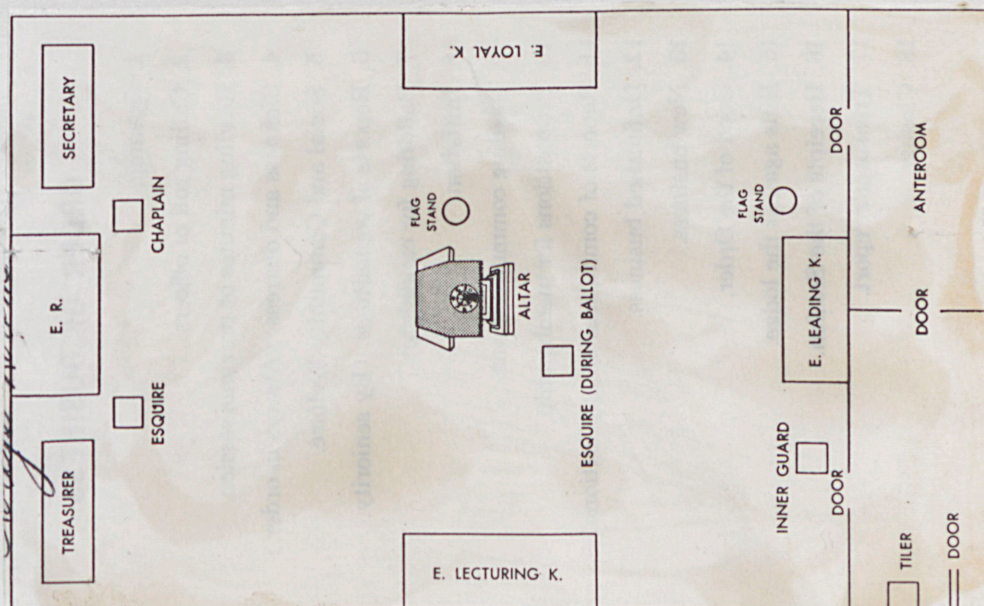
Lodge Room

Lodge meetings are held every first and third Monday of each month at 8:00 p.m. The lodge room is the staging area for rituals and business meetings. It must provide a background for an inspiring initiation.

The Exalted Ruler presides over all meetings and is assisted in his duties by the Esteemed Leading Knight, Esteemed Lecturing Knight, and the Esteemed Loyal Knight. All activities are centered around the altar.

Permanent type seating is in accordance to rituals performed within the lodge room. Many photographs and trophies are displayed in this room. The area shall be acoustically studied to allow for adequate sound system. Ventilation for comfort and the removal of undesired odors should be a permanent fixture of the space.

Further explanation of the functions of this room would reveal secrets known only to its members.



Food Service

The food service facilities of a lodge are probably one of the most difficult design problems encountered in the design of any lodge or club. The kitchen is particularly difficult because of the nature of the patronage of the lodge. It must function efficiently in all stages of food preparation, from a full course gourmet banquet for the main dining room to a quick lunch.

It is probably best if all food preparation is done in a central location, however, this is seldom practical in consideration of the overall lodge design. Often food prepared is transported to a "steam kitchen" until serving. This area may be located in a private dining area. In any event, the food service areas should be designed so that they operate as efficiently in full food preparation as they do in limited food preparation.

In addition to a centrally located food preparation center, the following factors are to be considered:

- 1) Adequate and properly arranged equipment
- 2) Properly located and adequate food receiving and storage facilities
- 3) Good circulation to, from, and within the kitchen
- 4) One level operation
- 5) Good ventilation and air conditioning

From past experience, it is to an architect's advantage to hire an outside "expert" who will aid the architect in planning an efficient kitchen.

Areas

Mechanical room, restroom, and storage are to be designed to be a sufficient area as to use, membership, and contents.

BUILDING PROGRAM

The following analysis of space requirements provides a general description of the capacity, area function, equipment, and relationship between areas. Square footage areas do not include halls, or miscellaneous storage.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Approximate Sq. Ft.</u>
<u>Entry</u>	<u>150</u>
Function - A stopping off place or meeting place providing access to main areas of the lodge and a recognizable entry.	
Equipment - Seating, registration desk for visitors and guests	
Relationship - Directed to all major activities	
<u>Coat Room</u>	<u>140</u>
Function - To provide storage for coats and hats	
Equipment - Coat and hat racks	
Relationship - Direct to entry	
<u>Cocktail Lounge</u>	<u>1400</u>
Function - To provide a place to relax and meet friends	
Equipment - Cocktail tables and chairs	
Relationship - Direct to entry, bar, restrooms, and dining areas	
<u>Bar</u>	<u>700</u>
Function - To provide drinking facilities, usually alcoholic drinks	
Equipment - Equipment for mixing drinks, bar stools, storage, washing facilities, and miscellaneous bar accessories	

<u>Area</u>	<u>Approximate Sq. Ft.</u>
<u>Lodge Room</u>	<u>4500</u>
Function - To provide an area for staging business meetings, initiation and rituals of the lodge	
Equipment - Lecturns, comfortable seating, chairs for the officers, alter, organ, secretary's desk	
Relationship - Direct to the outer chamber which seals off the entry to the lodge room	
<u>Outer Chamber</u>	<u>150</u>
Function - To provide a barrier to the lodge room	
Equipment - One chair	
Relationship - Direct to entry of lodge room	
<u>Administrative Offices</u>	<u>450</u>
Function - To provide individual work space	
Equipment - Desk, chairs, filing cabinets, vault	
Relationship - Associated with the secretary and club manager.	
<u>Dining Area</u> - (400 diners)	<u>7200</u>
Function - Provide an area for eating prepared meals	
Equipment - Chairs, tables, carts, storage	
Relationship - Directly to food service equipment	
<u>Kitchen</u>	<u>1600</u>
Function - To prepare large or small meals	
Equipment - Cold storage, disposal facilities, ovens, grills, food preparation table, washing facilities	

AreaApproximate Sq. Ft.

Relationship - Direct to dining areas, storage and delivery areas

Dance Floor7000

Function - To provide a comfortable dance floor

Equipment - Bandstand, piano

Relationship - Direct to dining and cocktail facilities

Game Room500

Function - To provide an area for two (2) pool tables

Equipment - Chairs for spectators, storage, pool tables, and cue storage

Relationship - Direct to bar facilities or cocktail area

Card Room350

Function - To provide an adequate card playing area (6 tables)

Equipment - Chairs, poker tables (6)

Relationship - Direct to bar facilities

T.V. Room480

Function - To provide an area of relaxation for watching television

Equipment - Lounge chairs, color T.V. unit, end tables, lamps, and miscellaneous material

Reading Room500

Function - To provide a pleasant and quiet area for relaxing and reading

Equipment - Lounge chairs, magazine rack, end tables, lamps

Total approximate square feet required plus 15% for halls, aisles, and miscellaneous storage.

39200 sq. ft.

CONTEXT CONSIDERATION

It is my intentions, considering the formal and informal atmosphere of the lodge, to design a lodge that achieves a blending of topography and natural growth of the site.

The site is bounded on the west by a high class residential area, hence many of the materials to be used should associate with the residential buildings while maintaining a dignified professional appearance. Landscaping, planting, shrubs, trees, and flowers should be used on the site to give additional transition to the surrounding areas.

Signs for advertisement should be kept at a minimum. Signs should be an integral part of the building.

The Elks is a private lodge and should not be open to the public nor should members view areas of unpleasant views.

ECONOMIC CONSIDERATION

Area Factors

Cody lacks many highly specialized trades. The Lovell Clay and Brick located at Lovell, Wyoming is 50 miles east of Cody, hence masonry materials and skilled masons are readily available in the immediate area.

Cost Analysis

Unlimited funds are available.

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