

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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19. Masonic Lodge (continued)

The south elevation is divided into four bays by brick pilasters. Brick beltcourses divide the building horizontally. The side parapet is accented with a raised brick motif of square and rectangular panels. Lodge symbols and letters appear on the south and east elevations at the second story level.

The building retains fair integrity, and is significant for its association with fraternal movements in the City of Union.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Masonic Lodge was built in 1989 on property donated to the Masonic Lodge by John M. Burns, the proprietor of Union's first hardware store (at Site #8A). Once this building was completed, the Lodge moved into the upper story. The lower level became Townley & Gale's Mercantile. The northeast Union home of W. J. Townley, co-owner of this store, as well as mining manager and pioneer orchardist, has been named to the National Register of Historic Places. The Townley-Gale "Busy Store" was operated in this location through the war years, with Shanks Cafe & Bakery operating in the 1910s and 1920s in the north portion. Fisk's Grocery was in business in the south portion in the 1950s and early 1960s, with the north half then occupied by the U.S. Post Office. Dr. Paul Stennfeld conducted his office in the south half during the 1950s, then moving his office to La Grande. The post office then expanded to utilize the entire first story space and interior remodeling was done in 1969.

The Masonic Lodge was originally conducted in the upper story of a two-story frame structure one block southward. A fire in 1869 destroyed every frame building on the block, including those on the west half. Between the fire and the construction of the Masonic Hall, a blacksmith shop occupied this site.

**20. Levy's General Store
304 S. Main St.
5400-4S4019BB (216)**

Current owner: Michael O'Connor
PO Box 525
Union OR 97883
541-562-6265

Significance: Primary/contributing

Style: Italianate Commercial

Date: 1870

DESCRIPTION: The Levy Brothers General Store fronts east on the northeast corner of Main and Center Streets. Built circa 1870, this was reportedly the first brick commercial building constructed in Union.

The one story rectangular building has a stone foundation, volcanic tuff storefront, and brick walls. The storefront was originally an Italianate, cast iron storefront which was replaced with volcanic tuff around the turn of the century. Two slender cast iron columns remain to provide support on either side of the

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20. Levy Bros. (continued)

recessed entrance. The storefront windows are framed in wood, and the large transom windows are intact. The storefront window system wraps around for one bay to the north elevation. The sign panel above the transom consists of three narrow horizontal recess panels, surmounted by a series of corbelled brick courses. The intact metal cornice is topped at the corners with ball finials.

A ghost sign remains visible on the north elevation. Two windows and a door provide light and access to an apartment at the rear (west end) of the building. There is a small gable roof addition on the southwest corner.

The Levy Brothers General Store Building is architecturally significant as the first brick commercial building erected in Union. It is an excellent example of nineteenth century brick commercial architecture, and retains a nearly intact nineteenth century storefront system.

SIGNIFICANCE: Built by Aaron Sommer, this was the first brick building erected in Union. Sommer also built the first brick buildings in La Grande and Summerville, all of which were mercantile spaces. Sommer and Baer built the Union store. When Adolph Levy, born in Germany in 1835, came to Union in 1878, he bought an interest in the store. It then became Baer, Levy & Company. Soon, he bought out the business, which he conducted under his name until his retirement shortly before his death in 1895. Upon Levy's retirement, his sons, Leon and Milton S., purchased the business and it was then known as Levy Brothers until its closure in 1942. Beginning in the late 1950s, the vacant store went into use as a religious edifice, serving that purpose for the congregation of the First Baptist Church. When that congregation moved to a new church, it was divided into several residential rentals.

Adolph Levy served on the Union city council for a number of years, beginning in 1886. Milton S. Levy served as mayor of Union from 1923 to 1930. Leon Levy was, like his brother Milton, a lover of horses. Both brothers engaged in the breeding of horses, and their barns and stables, which housed prized draft horses and racing ponies, still stands on the southwest edge of Union. Considerable Levy pastureland of this property was given over to the raising of Berkshire hogs and Jersey cattle. Both father and, later, sons gave generous support to the upgrading of the Union Fire Department.