

Orange Hall, 72 East Center Street, Manchester

The Loyal Orange order originated in Ireland in 1795 as a fraternal society among the Protestants of County Armagh. Notes by Susan Barlow, April 2017



Orange Hall ↓



In 1902, the Orange Hall, was erected and contained a meeting hall for the Manchester Chapter of the Loyal Orange Lodge as well as other local societies. In these 1914 images (above) the ground floor is rented to Stewart Dillon, grocer. (Below) location noted – the Orange Hall is to the right center, and the large Odd Fellows building is left center, curving around the corner of Main and E. Center Streets. Note the trolleys. The Masonic Temple, not on this map, hadn't been built yet.



(Above) C. 1940 photo of the interior of Orange Hall, located at 72 East Center Street. The writing on the lectern: Faith, Hope, & Charity. The Loyal Orange Lodge, an Irish fraternal organization, still operates Orange Hall and like other fraternal organizations with large buildings, helps defray its costs by renting out the hall for events.

(Below) C. 1935 photo of the interior, with Ladies of Liberty.



17. QUERENOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (SHOW ONLY VERY BRIEFLY)
 The Orange Hall is a two-story brick building with gable-front orientation. The first story consists of two commercial storefronts flanking the central entry to the Orange Hall on the second story. The recessed entry has double paneled doors with upper light topped by a semi-circular fanlight. The doorway is set into a semi-circular arched doorway with brick voussoir surround topped by a keystone. The storefronts have recessed central entries with paneled door with molded surround topped by a transom plate glass windows with transoms set above molded panels. Heavy lintels top each storefront.

The corners of the building are defined by brick piers on the first story and quoined brick pilasters on the second story. Centered in the second story is a Palladian window set in a blind arch with an architrave of painted quoins. On either side are two 14 double-hung sash windows resting on concrete sills and topped by flat arches with keystones. The gable end has returns and is embellished with a modillion cornice. Also detailing the roof is cresting with an acroterion at the apex. Centered in the gable is the date block, 1902. The side elevations have five bays, a number of which have been infilled or altered.

18. ARCHITECT _____ BUILDER _____

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE
 The Orange Hall is architecturally significant as an intact example of an early-20th century meeting hall with first floor commercial space. It is also significant as a vernacular interpretation of the Colonial-Revival style. The symmetrical facade, use of architectural detail such as the Palladian window and quoins are all features employed by the Colonial Revival style. However, the gable-front orientation, use of cresting and acroterion gives the building a Greek-Revival style influence, perhaps associated with its use as a fraternal society hall.

Built in 1902 as the meeting hall of the Manchester Loyal Orange Lodge, it was also home to other societies and organizations. The Manchester Directory of 1915 lists 46 societies active in Manchester. In addition to the Manchester Loyal Orange Lodge, six other organizations met at the Orange Hall. These groups included Daughters of Liberty, L.L.O.L. No 1125, Eden Royal Balk Preceptory, No. 27, Saga Swedish Benevolent Society, Star of the East, Royal Black Preceptory, No. 13, Vasa, and the Washington L.O.L. No. 17. Membership for these seven organizations was approximately 975. During the early 20th centuries, one of the elementary schools used the hall. During the early-20th century the storefront level was occupied by the grocery store of Stewart Dillon, The Central Market.



1930 photo, inside the hall.

Description of building from the Historic and Architectural Survey available on pg. 90 of <http://www.manchesterhistory.org/surveys/Manchester.East.Side.Volume.1.pdf>.