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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Northern Lights Masonic Lodge
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Ninth Street N/A not for publication
city, town Cooperstown N/A vicinity
state North Dakota code ND county Griggs code 039 zip code 58425

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ sites
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ structures
		1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

James E. [Signature] State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota) Date 8/17/1987

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Paul D. [Signature] _____ 10-16-87

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Brick
Limestone
roof Flat; not visible
other Glass

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Northern Lights Masonic Lodge (Photo 1) is located in Cooperstown, North Dakota, on the northwest corner of 9th Street (State Route 45) and Lenham Avenue. The building occupies a southern site along the town's north-south axis of business buildings. It sits at the periphery of the business district, surrounded by residential, commercial, and public buildings. The town, seat of Griggs County, is situated on prairie land about five miles west of the Sheyenne River.

The rectangular building has a steel frame structure over which Hebron chocolate colored brick forms the exterior and Bedford Indiana limestone serves as trim. The site being nominated measures 160 feet north-south by 137 feet east-west, which includes the building and a protective zone surrounding. The main block of the rectangular building is 55 feet north-south by 87 feet east-west.

The exterior of the building is visually segregated into three parts: a partially raised basement, the main two floors, and a parapet. Horizontal courses of stone mark the division between parts. The basement also is distinguished by recessed brick at every sixth course which creates a banding effect at that level. Fenestration varies between 12-over-12 and 6-over-6 lights. Several implied window openings faced in brick preserve the rhythm of wall openings on the primary facade and appear to have been part of the original design. The other three sides have less regular fenestration. An 8' by 12' entry vestibule projects from the front (west) facade. The double doors are metal with colored glass and metal glazing.

The interior arrangement of space is dominated by the long (east-west) axis. The building interior is spatially separated into north and south halves, and partitioned randomly within those larger units. On the main floor in the north half are two main rooms (photos 2 and 3, respectively) designated the "club room" and "billiard room."

The rooms are separated by an open colonnade and are finished with oak trim. The stone trim on the fire place resembles the stencil work at the rooms' cornice levels and elsewhere in the building. Prominent wood work includes beamed ceilings, quarter-sawn oak in the club room, and built-in bookcases, card tables and corner seats. Photographs of prominent former lodge members are hung from the club room south wall.

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On the south side of the main floor is the "blue room." The blue room (photo 4) consists in a large meeting area which contains some of the building's most impressive decorative features. The room is two stories in height, with balcony seats accessible through the second floor hallway (photo 5). Ample stencil work is apparent at the cornice level of the walls and on the mammoth ceiling beams. The center of the ceiling contains a back lit mesh of colored glass and the ceiling ventilation grate. Exterior windows on the south wall are located at the second floor level only. At several points are outlets for a central vacuum cleaning system, part of the original mechanical system. At the eastern end of the room is a stage which is used for lodge meetings, presentations, and dramatic productions.

The second floor, too, is divided into halves by the east-west interior bearing wall. Except for the balcony, usable space on the second floor is confined to the north side. A portion of this level is given to the Eastern Star branch of the organization, and to the Fourteenth Degree branch. The Eastern Star room contains wicker furniture which was installed in this space originally. Service and storage functions consume a small amount of second floor space at the northwest corner of this upper floor.

The basement houses service functions such as mechanical, heating, and storage. This level has undergone obvious alteration. The dining room, kitchen, and furnace rooms all have seen modernizing change. Rearrangement of space has occurred in the form of partition removal in the dining room and at the northwest corner of the floor (stairway landing). No evidence photographically or through inspection of the remaining finishes suggests that significant decorative features were disturbed in this subgrade level. The alterations detailed above are not evaluated to have destroyed the important elements of design.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1916

Significant Dates
1916

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Architect: Burton Keck (Crookston, MN)
Builder: Reed, MacDonald & Brewster

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Cooperstown Masonic Temple is significant in the context of local architecture prior to 1937. It possesses an outstanding collection of stylistic elements which typify the Craftsman style. In addition, the level of its interior and exterior integrity matches the quality of its stylistic expression.

The inception of Cooperstown resulted from entrepreneurial maneuvers of Rollin C. Cooper, the major bonanza (large-scale wheat) farmer in the area. Cooper, born in Michigan in 1845, engaged successfully in mining and livestock efforts in Colorado and in Kansas during the 1870s. In 1880, two years prior to the organization of Griggs County, he came to the area and purchased sizeable blocks of land from the Northern Pacific Railroad.

Cooper's bonanza operation required a large seasonal work-force which he hope to attract by establishing a town north of his farm. Cooperstown was platted and established as the seat of the newly organized county in 1882. The arrival of the Northern Pacific line in August of 1883 helped insure viability for the new town (Burke: 5-7). Various social clubs formed in the new town. The Northern Light Masonic Lodge #45 formed in 1895 in Cooperstown and held their first meeting in the Odd Fellows' hall. An opportunity to obtain their own space came in 1905 when a local businessman began construction of a new downtown retail space (Lots 1 & 2, Block 75). Lodgemembers persuaded the businessman to add a second floor to the building in exchange for a long term lease. The quarters served for over ten years, until the present structure was completed.

A discussion of the architectural character of Cooperstown is necessary to define the context into which the Masonic Temple fits. Nineteenth- and early-twentieth century views of Cooperstown's business district show a consistency of construction (photo 6). Nearly all buildings are modest in scale, of one, one-and-one-half, or two stories. Wood frame with horizontal clapboard siding predominates, with a few brick veneer structures appearing later. The majority of historic buildings exhibited highly

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
 State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Specify repository:
Division of Archeology and Historic Preservation, SHPO

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 14 5 6 6 1 1 0 5 2 5 4 5 8 5
Zone Easting Northing
C _____

B _____
Zone Easting Northing
D _____

N/A See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 8-12, Block 80, Original Townsite of Cooperstown, North Dakota.

N/A See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire resource, a building and the land which has been historically associated with the building on four city lots.

N/A See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title L. Martin Perry/Architectural Historian
organization State Historical Society of North Dakota date 7/15/87
street & number North Dakota Heritage Center telephone 701-224-2672
city or town Bismarck state North Dakota zip code 58505

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modified Italianate and Neoclassical detailing. Such buildings presented a flat parapet above a cornice of projecting brackets. False fronts and other simple wood frame business blocks defined the business district's appearance through the Second World War. Nearly all of the storefronts have been altered since the Second World War by overlays of modern design (photo 7). The extent of damage to the historic fabric of these buildings is unknown. It is possible that many buildings could be successfully rehabilitated by removal of this exterior.

Several important public and commercial buildings in Cooperstown complement the pervasive design of early storefronts. Most important architecturally and historically is the 1884 courthouse, listed in the National Register. This brick building has four floors of office space and a corner tower which signals the town's location to the surrounding area.

Notable public buildings in town history include schools. The original school house was a 40' square wood-frame Italianate structure built in 1883. It was enlarged to roughly double the original size by a rear addition, but fell prey to fire in 1904. The replacement grade school, constructed of brick with a hybrid of classical and prairie styles, and a separate gymnasium in the Romanesque style, each cost \$15,000. They retain their essential design today, but have been compromised by a common front side addition and by glass block window infill. A Neoclassically styled brick high school was constructed in 1904 for \$30,000 and abandoned in 1960 upon construction of a new high school facility. All of these were important structures in the local architectural context due to aesthetic quality and to size, but have lost their integrity (Frigaard: 54-69).

A few impressive commercial buildings also varied from the pattern of modest storefronts which defined Cooperstown's historic business district. The First National Bank (near the center of photo 6) carried a Romanesque exterior of brick until its demise. Still standing, although in deteriorated condition, is the imposing concrete block Almklov's pharmacy (left, photo 7). Two other brick buildings, a bank and retail store (photo 8), on the southwest and southeast corners of Tenth and Burrel, are remnants of the Syverson family Enterprises. Both of the Syverson buildings retain remarkable integrity and represent architecturally significant commercial buildings in the local area from the period 1882-1917 (Frigaard: 183, 203-5, 207)

Structures of local architectural interest associated with the theme of travel were of two types: hotels and buildings near the railroad. The Palace Hotel, Cooperstown's earliest and grandest, aided settlement and was operated until its demolition in 1927. Other hotels include the Dakota House, the Exchange Hotel, and the Newel House

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(photo 9) which was constructed in 1898. All three of these structures were of lesser architectural character than the Palace Hotel. The Newel House still stands with relatively good integrity (Frigaard: 186-7; 200-1).

Industrial buildings lay along the railroad tracks. Lumber yards and associated warehouses were prominent visually, if not aesthetically. Largest was the Crane-Johnson Yard headquartered in a voluminous building with a double monitor roof. The building remains to day, although in much altered condition. Elevators with low levels of integrity still stand, though none as colorful as the town's first, a circular and slightly conical structure. The depot was covered by a jerkin-headed gable roof with low pitch and supported by large brackets (Frigaard: 29, 34, 173, 189).

Finally, churches are another property type of potential significance to the local architectural context. Those in Cooperstown were of simple design and ornament, of wood frame construction and clap board siding, and somewhat smaller than local schools in size (Frigaard: 148-166)

Few properties have been found in Cooperstown which display Craftsman style features, a fact which is generally true state-wide. The Craftsman style arose during the late nineteenth century in reaction against the growth of mass production in house construction. Practitioners of the style countered with distinctive interior designs which integrated furnishings, finishes, and linearity. Designers in the Craftsman mode depended upon wealthy patrons who could afford custom made furniture and carpentry work. Elements of the style include inglenooks, exposed ceiling beams, natural wood finishes, rectilinear furnishings, artistic use of metal glazing and stained glass, and decorative schemes based on linear patterns.

Several schools of design found the Craftsman rectilinearity compatible with other stylistic applications. For instance, Craftsman influence is seen in contemporaneous designs for Prairie style, and even Neoclassical dwellings. Craftsman elements eventually became available to a mass market during the second decade of the century. Middle class consumers ordered pre-cut homes by catalog or from distributors at local lumber yards. The economic climate in North Dakota during the period of Craftsman practice did not encourage its artistic (architect-design) manifestation on a wide scale. The market for mass housing however, fostered the style in popular (catalog/pre-cut) dwellings.

Two factors account for the relative rarity of the Craftsman style in Cooperstown: a lack of the necessary architect/patron factions to support such work and construction activity which occurred most intensely prior to the period when the Craftsman style

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came within the reach of the mass market.

The important material development of Cooperstown's commercial area occurred during three decades, from the close of the nineteenth century until the first World War, when Craftsman styling was important nationally. The style, however, is conspicuously absent from Cooperstown business blocks. Rather, the buildings are relatively plain in their ornamental treatments. Most are of wood frame construction and have simple clapboard and unadorned cornices (photo 6). This apparent conservatism toward applied decoration parallels the slow growth rate in the commercial area. For roughly 70 years the business core has occupied two 3-4 block axes along Ninth Street and Burrell (Main) Avenue. Although population fluctuations have resulted in increases or decreases in the area of residential construction, the business area has remained stable in size.

A lack of available architectural expertise or financial support for elaborate styles may also account for the more prosaic appearance of the early business district. Crookston, Minnesota architect Burton Keck was called upon to provide the Masonic Lodge design. Keck does not appear to be particularly significant in the history of architecture in Cooperstown, North Dakota, or Minnesota (Interview with Lathrop, April 14, 1987). Keck is reported to have designed many small schools, residences, and commercial buildings in both states, though. Due to the aesthetic quality of other buildings in Cooperstown any architect-designed structure with requisite age and integrity should be considered significant.

Although few properties in Cooperstown are of comparable style against to which evaluate the Masonic Temple, one building, the Farmers and Merchants Bank (extreme left, photo 6) contains elements of the Craftsman style as practiced in North Dakota. This brick building's exterior exhibits an interplay between stone and brick, stone coping on the parapet and stone quoin work, relief stone carving, and deeply recessed wall openings. The building stands today, although in greatly altered condition (Interview with Dahl, April 14, 1987).

The Masonic Temple possesses a more reserved exterior design than does the Farmers and Merchants Bank. The interior of the Masonic building, though, displays a decorative scheme which includes major elements of the style. Within the context of significant local architecture prior to the Great Depression, it is without rival aesthetically and in terms of integrity.

The ability of the building to satisfy Criteria A and B has not been explored for this nomination. A foundation for justifying these bases of significance can be sketched.

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With regard to Criterion A, the Masonic Lodge continues to be an important social organization in the local context, and the building may be the best representative of that historic theme in the town. A list of social organizations active at the time of the Temple's construction include the Knights of Pythias, International Order of Odd Fellows, Sons of Norway, Workmen, Woodmen, Maccabees, Eastern Star, and Degree of Honor (Griggs County Centennial Courier, 11/18/1915).

With such diversity among fraternal organizations, eligibility under Criterion A would require demonstration that the Masons were a more important organization or that the building is the best representative of that historic activity. The importance of Masonry to Cooperstown may be suggested by comparing facilities used by various fraternal groups. The Masonic Lodge was constructed to be used exclusively by the group. Other fraternal organizations in Cooperstown occupied only parts of buildings or occupied an entire building which was constructed for another use. If the following three conditions exist in Cooperstown the building would meet Criterion A: the Masonic Temple possesses the highest degree of physical integrity; other organizations occupied buildings of general design for periods of short duration; and the Masonic Lodge possesses an equal amount of historic importance with other fraternal organizations in town.

Vis-a-vis Criterion B, the building is associated with Rollin C. Cooper, who was a highly significant person in Cooperstown settlement and development. Cooper was also a member of the Lodge. He donated nearly half the cost of the \$50,000 building (Griggs County Centennial Tribune, 6/22/1916). The building is one of the three properties in the area associated with Cooper. The other two are the courthouse, which benefited from Cooper's \$1,000 donation, and his 1906 farmstead (Frigaard: p. 44). That latter property is more appropriately associated with Cooper and the productive period of his life. However, the ability of the farm to convey the association through its physical was not investigated. The masonic Temple would appear to be eligible under Criterion B due to associations with Cooper. His farmstead has lost integrity of association. The laborious task of identifying the importance of various early lodge members for possible support of justifying Criterion B was not undertaken without investigating the individual significance of early members as a basis of comparison against the same from other fraternal organizations in Cooperstown, certain outward signs such as the continued existence of the lodge and the quality of the building offer strong suggestion about the importance of the early members.

The final matter of significance is that of appropriate level. The Cooperstown Masonic Temple may be of state wide significance to the theme of masonry in North Dakota because of its artistic design and high degree of integrity. Only those few Masonic

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temples located in the state's largest cities are said to possess equal architectural quality as that seen in the Cooperstown building. If those other buildings have undergone changes which interfere with their representation of the theme and period of design, then the Cooperstown Masonic could be of state level of significance. A survey of the state's Masonic Temples is being considered by the organization (Interview with Hoel. 9/30/86). If such a survey is completed, updated evaluative information should be incorporated into nomination and inventory documentation to facilitate management of the property.

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NORTHERN LIGHTS MASONIC LODGE NOMINATION BIBLIOGRAPHY

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1976 Griggs County History. Griggs County Heritage Book Committee, Cooperstown.

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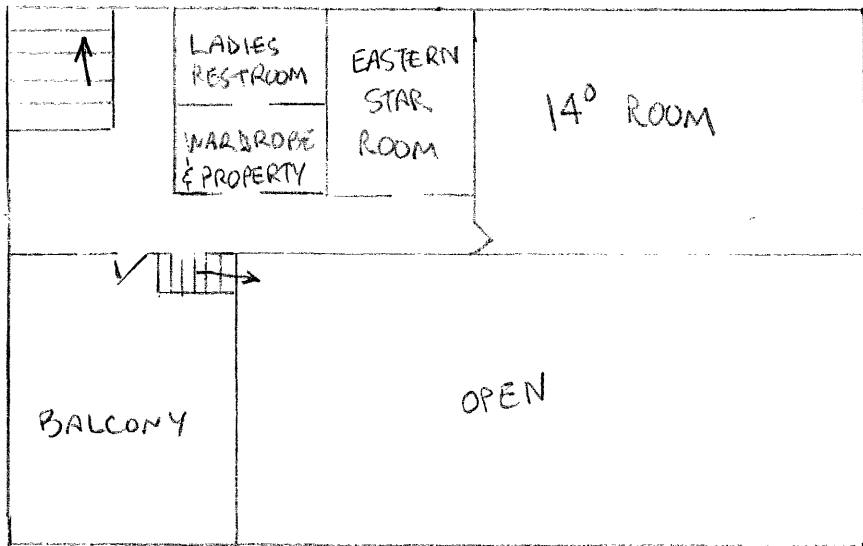
Interview with Norman Hoel, September 30, 1986

Interview with Alan Lathrop, April 14, 1987

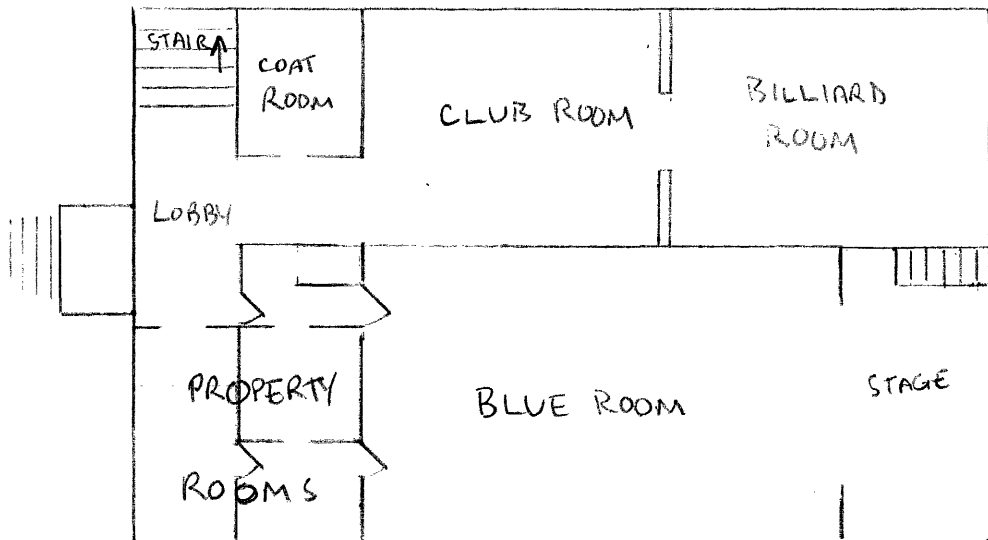
Pond, Harold Sackett

1964 Masonry in North Dakota. The Record Printers, Grafton, North Dakota.

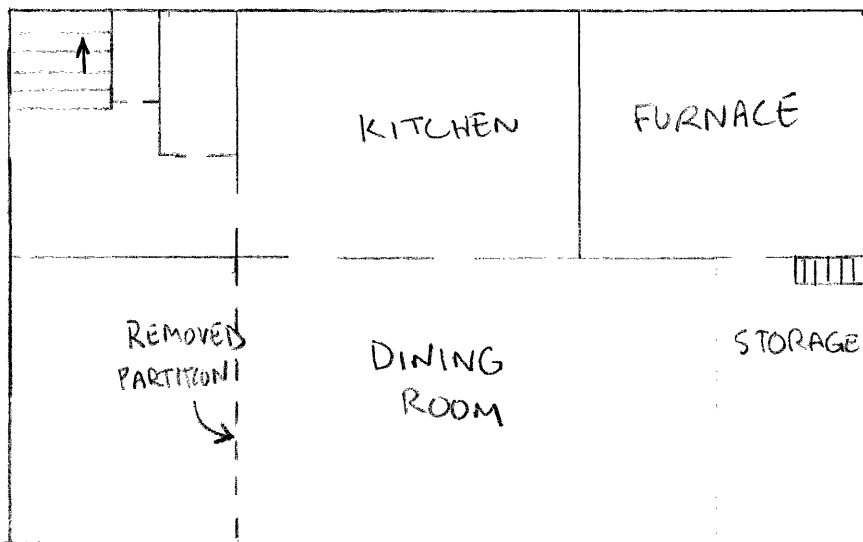
Various Photographs held by Division of Archives and Historical Research Library, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck.



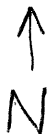
SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



BASEMENT



Approximate
Scale: 1" = 20'

COOPERSTOWN MASONIC LODGE

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Northern Lights Masonic Lodge
Cooperstown, (Griggs County), North Dakota

Photo credit: L. Martin Perry
Date of photo: September 30, 1986
Location of negative: State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
Bismarck, ND 58505

Front elevation, camera facing east-north-east.

Photo 1 of 9

Northern Lights Masonic Lodge
Cooperstown, (Griggs County), North Dakota

Photo credit: Bonnie J. Halda
Date of photo: July 28, 1982
Location of negative: State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
Bismarck, ND 58505

Club room, camera facing west.

Photo 2 of 9

Northern Lights Masonic Lodge
Cooperstown, (Griggs County), North Dakota

Photo credit: Bonnie J. Halda
Date of photo: July 28, 1982
Location of negative: State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
Bismarck, ND 58505

Billiards room, camera facing east.

Photo 3 of 9

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Section number Photos Page 2

Northern Lights Masonic Lodge
Cooperstown, (Griggs County), North Dakota

Photo credit: Bonnie J. Halda
Date of photo: July 28, 1982
Location of negative: State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
Bismarck, ND 58505

Blue room, camera facing east.

Photo 4 of 9

Northern Lights Masonic Lodge
Cooperstown, (Griggs County), North Dakota

Photo credit: Bonnie J. Halda
Date of photo: July 28, 1982
Location of negative: State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
Bismarck, ND 58505

Second floor hallway, camera facing east.

Photo 5 of 9

Cooperstown Main Street
Cooperstown, (Griggs County), North Dakota

Photo credit: Unknown
Date of photo: ca. 1935
Location of negative: State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
Bismarck, ND 58505

Main street, camera facing east.

Photo 6 of 9

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Cooperstown Commercial Area
Cooperstown, (Griggs County), North Dakota

Photo credit: Fred Schumacher

Date of photo: 1976

Location of negative: State Historical Society of North Dakota
 North Dakota Heritage Center
 Bismarck, ND 58505

Main Street, camera facing southeast.

Photo 7 of 9

Syverson Block
Cooperstown, (Griggs County), North Dakota

Photo credit: L. Martin Perry

Date of photo: September 30, 1986

Location of negative: State Historical Society of North Dakota
 North Dakota Heritage Center
 Bismarck, ND 58505

Main facade, camera facing southwest.

Photo 8 of 9

Newel House
Cooperstown, (Griggs County), North Dakota

Photo credit: L. Martin Perry

Date of photo: September 30, 1986

Location of negative: State Historical Society of North Dakota
 North Dakota Heritage Center
 Bismarck, ND 58505

Main facades, camera facing northwest.

Photo 9 of 9