

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only  
received SEP 28 1984  
date entered OCT 25 1984

1. Name

historic Masonic Temple  
and/or common Masonic Temple

2. Location

street & number 1820 Capitol Avenue not for publication  
city, town Cheyenne vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district First  
state Wyoming code 056 county Laramie code 021

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: social

4. Owner of Property

name Cheyenne Masonic Building Association  
street & number 1820 Capitol Avenue  
city, town Cheyenne vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Wyoming 82001

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Laramie County Courthouse  
street & number 19th and Carey Avenue  
city, town Cheyenne state Wyoming 82002

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wyoming Recreation Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1984  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Wyoming Recreation Commission  
city, town 122 West 25th, Cheyenne state Wyoming

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Masonic Temple in Cheyenne is an impressive turn-of-the-century three-story masonry building designed in the Second Renaissance Revival style. Located on the southwest corner at the intersection of Nineteenth and Capitol Avenues, the temple is a significant building in Cheyenne's architectural heritage. Other National Register buildings such as St. Mark's Episcopal and First United Methodist Church are located in close proximity to the temple. The late nineteenth and twentieth century two and three-story commercial structures of the Downtown Cheyenne Historic District are only one block away from the south end of the building. Unfortunately, the historic buildings that once surrounded the temple were demolished and now the temple faces parking lots on the east and north side. Although the temple itself burned in 1903, only a few years after construction, the masons who rebuilt the hall made very few changes. In 1929, an addition that mirrored the original building was constructed on the west side of the building that provided space for a stage and room to fly scenery. Through the years the masons have been sensitive to the historic character of their temple so the building has basically retained its architectural integrity.

The temple is a three-story buff brick veneer structure with a poured concrete foundation. Basically the structure has a rectangular shape although the 1929 addition to the southwest corner of the building slightly altered the original plan and now the temple has a modified U plan. In contrast to the outside or original walls, the inside walls of the addition are red instead of buff brick. Two sides of the building, both the north and east facades, are seen from the street. The main entrance is located on the east face of the facade in a portion of the temple that is slightly advanced. The original frame double doors on the main entry were replaced with recessed double glass doors. A decorative raised semi-circular brick arch draws attention to the entry. As part of the archway, a large semi-elliptically shaped stone feature, in place of a fan light, has the words "Masonic Temple" inscribed on it. A single frame door provides additional access in the south end of the east facade. The windows on the first floor are paired and have jack arches, a few vermiculated stone sills remain. Some of the first-story windows and lights were changed during the forties. Windows on either side of the main entry were enlarged slightly while most of the units were replaced with glass block. A set of original double-hung paired windows was replaced with a modern casement window. A molded brick watertable marks the line between the first and second story.

One of the most distinctive features of the building is the fenestration pattern on the second story. Adjacent raised semicircular brick arches with voussoirs enclose recessed double windows with an oculus window placed between the arch and the coupled round-head windows. Some of the coupled and oculus windows are stained glass. For protective purposes a transparent covering was recently placed over the stained glass. To accommodate the large brick arch on the first story, the windows over the main entry are smaller than the other coupled windows on the second story. There are two single round headed, double-hung windows that flank each side of the paired windows on the south end of the east facade. Four masonic symbols are painted to help to identify the building on the north facade. A molded brick belt course divides the second and third stories.

SEE ADDENDUM

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1901 – 1911      **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cheyenne Masonic Temple, first built in 1901, is a well-preserved example of the type of building placed in the State Capitol's structural landscape at the turn of the century. The impressive three-floor brick structure with Romanesque features is representative of the efforts of Cheyenne builders to reflect an image of prosperity through the built environment. The building embodies the distinctive characteristics of a method of construction employed during the early twentieth century in Wyoming, and it possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Although certain changes in design occurred during the reconstruction period of the building (1903) following the fire, sufficient numbers of architectural elements were retained so that significant original design and feeling components continued to be recognizable. Occupants of the building, the Cheyenne Masons, have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Wyoming's social welfare history and thus the building serves as an architectural association with that contribution. In addition, through the memberships of numerous state and federal governmental leaders in the Lodge, the building is associated with persons who have made an impact on Wyoming's history. The Cheyenne Masonic Temple, standing on the corner of 19th and Capitol Streets, is adjacent to the Cheyenne Downtown Historic District, enrolled on the National Register of Historic Places. Because of the building's proximity to the historic district and to other National Register properties in the immediate vicinity, its preservation is important to maintaining the historic character of this neighborhood. Demolitions and new building construction have altered the appearance of Capitol Avenue, Cheyenne's major thoroughfare, but the recognition of the importance of the remaining historic structures such as the Masonic Temple through National Register status perhaps could halt the destruction. As a potential tax act project, the building could serve also as a model of restoration and rehabilitation which could be emulated by adjacent historic building owners. As an outstanding example of turn-of-the-century architectural design and workmanship, a social and humanitarian center for governmental leaders, and a visual symbol of the contributions made to the social welfare of the State of Wyoming, the Cheyenne Masonic Temple is worthy of enrollment on the National Register of Historic Places.

SEE ADDENDUM

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ADDENDUM

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Cheyenne North, WY

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	3	5	1	5	3	8	0	4	5	5	3	5	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE ADDENDUM

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles A. Kline

organization Cheyenne Masonic Building Assoc. date April 11, 1984

street & number 1820 Capitol Avenue telephone (307) 634-1655

city or town Cheyenne state Wyoming

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mack Jung, Deputy SHPO

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/27/84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

J. Nelson Bryan  
Keeper of the National Register

Included in the  
National Register

date 10-25-84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The third story windows are not as decorative as those on the second story. Most of the windows are paired double-hung units with one-light-over-one-light. A brick label groups the windows into pairs and a single mullion imitating a pilaster separates the coupled windows. The brick corbeling above the third-story windows mirrors the arches on the second story. At one time dentil molding and modillion blocks were part of the cornice but were removed during the mid-twentieth century.

After the 1903 fire, the design of the roof was changed to a more moderately pitched hipped roof. Clay tiles were used when the temple was rebuilt and the elaborate dormers that once graced the building were not replaced. In 1980, the masons used asphalt shingles instead of tiles to reroof the large structure. The main hip of the roof, that runs east and west, is intersected by a north-south hip. The north-south hip suddenly ends and a parapet wall delineates the west edge of the structure.

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Cheyenne Masonic Lodge #1 was the first chartered Masonic Lodge in Wyoming, originally chartered under the Grand Lodge of Colorado, October 7, 1868, as Lodge #16 and chartered as Cheyenne Lodge #1 by the Wyoming Grand Lodge on February 8, 1875. In July, 1869, Reverend Joseph W. Cook, the first Rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Cheyenne, was elected Chaplain of the lodge.

One of the long recognized public activities of Masonic Lodges is the ceremonies of laying corner stones of public buildings. George Washington as Grand Master Pro Tem of the Grand Lodge of Maryland and while President of the United States laid the corner stone of our Nation's Capitol on September 18, 1793. Appropriately the Masonic tradition of corner stone laying was continued in Wyoming with probably the first corner stone laid under Masonic auspices in the State of Wyoming was laying the corner stone of the new Union Pacific Railroad passenger depot on June 19, 1886, by the Wyoming Grand Lodge accompanied by Cheyenne Lodge #1. On September 14, 1886, Cheyenne Lodge #1 again accompanied the Grand Lodge in laying the corner stone of the new St. Mark's Episcopal Church. On April 18, 1887, Cheyenne Lodge #1 accompanied the Grand Lodge in the laying of the corner stone of the State Capitol Building at Cheyenne. In July, 1901, Cheyenne Lodge #1 assisted the Grand Lodge in laying the corner stone of the present Masonic Temple building.

On October 18, 1886, John A. Riner, who for so many years (1890-1921) was the Federal District Judge for Wyoming, was initiated in Cheyenne Lodge #1. Judge Riner also served as Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Scottish Rite Masonic Bodies in Wyoming for the Supreme Council of the 33<sup>o</sup>, Southern Jurisdiction, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masonry. Following Judge Riner was Judge T. Blake Kennedy, 1921-1955. Judge Kennedy was Past Master Cheyenne Lodge #1, a 33<sup>o</sup> Scottish Rite Mason and Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Wyoming. Judge Ewing T. Kerr, 1955-, is still efficiently performing his judicial duties although he could have officially retired in 1975. Judge Kerr is a Past Master of Rocky Mountain Lodge #40, 33<sup>o</sup> Scottish Rite Mason and Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Wyoming. Judge Clarence A. Brimmer, 1975-, is a 32<sup>o</sup> KCCH of the Scottish Rite of Masonry and is Past Potentate of Korein Temple of the Shrine. Most of Wyoming's governors, beginning with the territorial governors, have belonged to the Masonic fraternity. Also, a large number of Wyoming masons have served and are currently serving in the state and federal legislative bodies.

The Masonic Temple, the name by which this building is known in the community was built in 1901 and perhaps some work was done in 1900. The corner stone of the building was laid June 5, 1901 by the Wyoming Grand Lodge assisted by Cheyenne Lodge #1. The building was constructed for use by Wyoming Consistory #1 Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and was occupied and used approximately one year before a fire gutted the building Saturday evening, February 28, 1903. It is noted that the beautiful stained glass windows

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in the Northeast room known as the Memorial Room located on the second floor survived the fire devastation. According to accounts of the fire and destruction, an estimated \$5,000 in paraphernalia was lost and damage to the bowling alley was estimated at \$1,200. The bowling alley was located on the west side at ground level in the area now occupied by the Grand Lodge Library. The original cost of the building was about \$40,000 and the loss by the fire was estimated at \$50,000. Reconstruction of the building apparently was commenced soon after the fire. In 1924 Cheyenne Lodge #1, Acacia Lodge #11 and Rocky Mountain Lodge #40 along with Wyoming Chapter #1, Royal Arch Masons and Wyoming Commandary #1 purchased the temple from Wyoming Consistory #1 for \$100,000. Wyoming Consistory #1 had by this time completed a new building located one block north at 20th and Capitol. In approximately 1911, an addition on the west portion of the building was completed. The west addition included a gymnasium and billiard room on the ground level and additional meeting rooms on the upper second and third floors. The addition was constructed with the same exterior and interior architecture as the original building.

Freemasonry is a way of life for its membership, it is charity for all mankind; being humble; helping the weak and lowly; and greeting everyone on the same level of human understanding. All of these, and many other ways constitute Freemasonry As A Way of Life. It is noted that just before Christmas 1887, the Secretary of Cheyenne Lodge #1 was directed to send Christmas dinners to the widows of the deceased members of the Lodge who were residents in Cheyenne. The charitable and philanthropic activity of the Masonic Fraternity nationwide, exceeds 1 million dollars per day and each local Masonic Lodge and apendant bodies does its part in medical research, gerontology, blood banks, youth programs, military rehabilitation, scholarship programs, extensive research into the causes and cure of childhood aphasia, schizophrenia, eye foundation and hospitals for crippled children and burned children.

Locally, over the years many children have been referred to the Shriner's Hospital For Crippled Children in Salt Lake City, Utah. Last spring, two small girls from Carpenter, Wyoming, were transported on a "Flight For Life Plane" to the Shrine Burn Hospital in Galveston, Texas, for treatment of severe burns. Perhaps, the most visible of all Masonic charity and philanthropy are the Shrine Hospitals for Crippled Children and the Shrine Burn Centers for burned children. All Shriners are, first of all, a member in good standing of a Masonic Lodge. Locally many Masons are providing entertainment as Shrine Clowns at many community activities, local schools and hospitals. There are regularly scheduled activities provided by the Masonic Order and its allied organizations to the Cheyenne Veteran's Hospital. One of our members is appointed by the Grand Master as representative of the National Masonic Service Association. His responsibility involves regular visits to the V.A. Hospital, planning and organizing activities for enjoyment by patients.

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Many members are involved in visitations to the sick and afflicted at all of the local hospitals, nursing homes and homebound individuals. Members of the Masonic Fraternity are active in numerous community and civic activities, contributing time, money and effort for the betterment of humanity everywhere.

Since the structure was first built in 1901 and as it remains at present, the meeting place for all of the Masonic Groups in Cheyenne, the Order of Eastern Star, Amaranth, White Shrine and the youth organizations including Jobs Daughters and De Molay. Memberships number into the thousands of the above named groups and has included many individuals prominent in local, state and federal leadership. The Masonic Temple has been used for many social functions and activities enjoyed by thousands of adults and youth over the years not only from Cheyenne and its immediate vicinity, but also from greater distances. As an imposing visual symbol of the contributions made to the social welfare of the State of Wyoming and of the fine craftsmanship employed by Wyoming builders, the Masonic Temple is worthy of enrollment on the National Register of Historic Places.



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Mokler, Alfred James. Grand Historian. History of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Wyoming 1874-1924.

Reusser, Walter C. Grand Historian. History of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Wyoming 1874-1974.

Oral Interviews

Holland, Floyd, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Wyoming, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

Kerr, Ewing T. U.S. Federal District Judge.

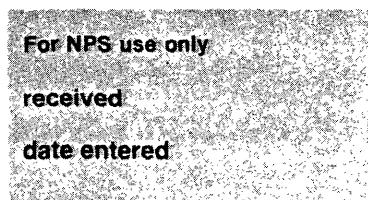
Metz, Donn B., Secretary, Wyoming Consistory #1.

Sellin, Fred B., Grand Librarian, Masonic Grand Lodge of Wyoming.

Triggs, Eldon. Secretary, Masonic Building Association.

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Cheyenne Masonic Temple is located on all of Lot #1 and the East 44 feet of Lot #2 in Block #328 in the City of Cheyenne, Wyoming, as said Lots and Block are laid down and described on the record in the office of the County Clerk for Laramie County, Wyoming.

This nomination includes only the Masonic Temple on its original lots and no additional properties. The legal description on file with the County Clerk adequately defines the site without including excess land area.