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NPS Form 10-900
OMB No. 1024-0018
(Rev. 10/90)

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JUN 6 1996

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

FEDERAL AGENCY RESOURCE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name MASONIC TEMPLE
other names/site number GREAT WESTERN BUILDING

2. Location

street & number 321 EAST YAKIMA AVENUE not for publication
city or town YAKIMA vicinity
state Washington code WA county YAKIMA code 077 zip code 98901

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary Thompson ACTING SHPO 11.8.95
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary Thompson, State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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:)

Entered in the
National Register

George M. Sapsley

2/14/96

George M. Sapsley
Signature of Keeper

2/14/96
Date of Action

Property Name MASONIC TEMPLE

County and State YAKIMA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:

0

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE AND BUSINESS,
ORGANIZATIONAL, SPECIALTY STORE
RESTAURANT
SOCIAL: MEETING HALL
RECREATION AND CULTURE: AUDITORIUM

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE TRADE: BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL,
FINANCIAL INSTITUTION SPECIALTY STORE,
RESTAURANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Second Empire

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation REINFORCED CONCRETE
walls BRICK (with ornamental brick details)
roof STONE (slate)
other terra cotta

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Property Name MASONIC TEMPLE

County and State YAKIMA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1911-1945

Significant Dates

1911

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

R. J. BOWLES, NW BRIDGE WORKS OF PORTLAND, OR, DEVEAUX, W. W., HEATH AND TWITCHELL OF TACOMA, WA, CORBETT & RAYMOND CONTRACTORS.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Property Name MASONIC TEMPLE

County and State YAKIMA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

1	<u>1</u> / <u>1</u>	<u>6</u> / <u>9</u> / <u>1</u> / <u>4</u> / <u>2</u> / <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> / <u>1</u> / <u>6</u> / <u>3</u> / <u>9</u> / <u>3</u> / <u>0</u>	3	<u> </u> / <u> </u>	<u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u>	<u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u>
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___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title MARY HARGIS JORDAN

organization MANAGER OF PROPERTY date _____

street & number PO BOX 657 telephone _____

city or town YAKIMA state WA zip code 98907

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

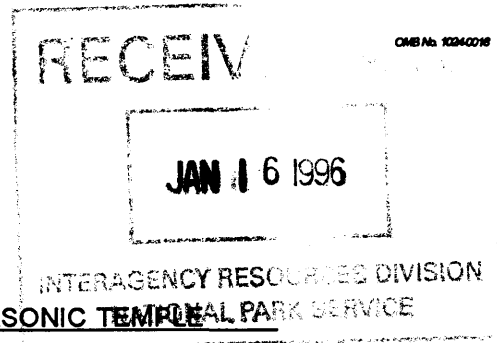
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Name of Property MASONIC TEMPLE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

County and State YAKIMA, WA



BUILDING DESCRIPTION

The Great Western Building is located at the northwest corner of North Fourth Street and Yakima Avenue in the central business district of downtown Yakima. Rising eight stories, the building is one of less than a handful of high profile structures in town. The building has a basement which encompasses a gross building area of 52,828 square feet. The building's gross dimensions are fifty feet by one hundred and thirty feet. The building's dimensions are seventy-two feet by thirty-six feet and twenty-six feet in height.

A grand scale project that was formally announced in the newspaper in 1910, the building was begun that fall and was completed in the fall of 1911. It's five-story profile with mansard crown rests on a heavy cornice composed of block modillions; the body of the facade above the store fronts is divided into bays by large corinthian pilasters. Paired one-over-one, double-hung sash are found at the second and third stories; fourth and fifth stories feature a single, one-over-one, double-hung window between pilasters. The rusticated first story is accented by arched door openings with prominent voussoirs and keystones. Above the main cornice, a smaller dentiled cornice supports a series of urn-like finials attached to each extended pilaster. The ornate mansard features triangular-pedimented dormers at each end; small oculus windows with hood moldings and keystones are found at the roof line.

Originally, the interior of the building consisted of a lobby and several floors leased out for office space, with some space housing the mason's main headquarters. The fifth floor included a ballroom. The Lodge Hall, on the sixth floor, was reserved for meetings and ceremonies of the Masons. The lodge room was intended as a replica of Solomon's Temple. The room features twenty-nine columns along each side and fifteen columns at each end, in addition to four still larger columns placed along each side, and two located at each end to support the ceiling beams. The profusion of columns imparts the feeling of an ancient temple. Ornamentation is found on and behind these columns. All of the columns and decorations are virtually intact.

The ceilings features two beams which extend from end to end and rest on the columns. These support four crossbeams, the ends of which rest on the larger columns at the sides of the bays. Above these four beams are two other tiers of smaller beams which divide the ceiling into panels

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Name of Property MASONIC TEMPLE

County and State YAKIMA, WA

measuring two feet square. Three large panels, each four feet square, hold the ceiling lights. The large panels were filled with stained glass creations which were said to be symbolic in nature.

The Masons vacated and sold the building around 1965. At this time the building became the home of the Temple Cafe and Reeds Hat Store. The Masons built a new structure in North Yakima and moved in in 1966. The original "temple" building sat empty for four to five years, and was vandalized during this time. It was owned at this time by Emmet J. McKanna of San Diego, a former resident of Yakima. In 1969, Architect Thomas F. Hargis, Jr. and James O. May purchased the building.

Hargis and May began a restoration of the building at the time much of the central business district was converted to the pedestrian Yakima Mall. Their restoration efforts focused on the Lodge Hall, which had been badly damaged from vandalism. Additional columns, previously removed, were not put back into place, but were instead incorporated into the decorative scheme of the sixth floor hall and one office. All of the floors were rehabilitated for contemporary office space, which is the current usage.

No significant alterations were made to the lobby in the rehabilitation project, however, it was reduced in size. In addition to the lobby space on the main floor, a bookstore which opens into the Yakima Mall is also found on this floor, as well as a jewelry store which opens onto the plaza of the mall. Until very recently, there was a bank branch at the very north corner of the building. A basement was added by Hargis and May, which currently houses a restaurant which also opens up into the mall basement common areas.

A back stairwell was added to the building to allow access to the Yakima Mall garage. Doors open out to every level of the garage. The front stairwell and lighting were updated to accommodate heavy traffic and meet fire codes. A new elevator was installed to meet contemporary building codes.

The exterior of the building is clad in brick and ornamental brick trim. The roof is slate and features some deteriorated terra cotta detailing. Portions of the exterior of the building were painted in the early 1970s. All of the ornamental trim and terra cotta remain intact, but the terra cotta has been painted. Restoration included the reglazing of windows in office areas, though the window types and openings remained the same in the majority of the windows.

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Name of Property MASONIC TEMPLE

County and State YAKIMA, WA

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former Masonic Temple, known today as the Great Western Building, is significant as one of Yakima's most commanding buildings. As the singular example of the Second Empire style applied to a civic/commercial structure, the building is also distinguished. Its architectural character befits the role of Yakima as the major agricultural, production, transport, and commercial center of central Washington.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

Yakima had its beginnings in an adjoining town known today as Union Gap. In 1884, the railroad made the decision to establish its station at its present location on North Front Street in Yakima. At this time, the town of Yakima also decided to relocate with the aid of the railroad. After the town moved, it became known as North Yakima and Union Gap was referred to as Old Town.

The growth and development of the town became centered around North Yakima, the commercial center of central Washington. As significant irrigation projects in the upper and lower Yakima Valley were developing, commercial and social movements in North Yakima were also expanding, frequently making the news. Only a few blocks from the Great Western Building was the premier residential area of Yakima. People came to North Yakima from up and down the Valley and from around the Northwest, to shop, to attend social functions, or visit friends. Many were passing through and spent the night in a hotel in North Yakima on their way to another destination. When the Great Western Building, then the Masonic Temple, was built, it was the center of North Yakima and all its activity.

On January 29, 1910, the front page of the Yakima Daily Republic hailed the Masons' announcement to build the new Masonic Temple. W. W. Steinweg from the Masons Building Committee made the announcement to the community. The size and scope of the project as described was considered impressive, not only locally, but all down the west coast.

The ground breaking ceremony on September 13, 1910, included an honor guest and speaker, James Stuart, a pioneer in the valley from Old Town. One anecdote recalled an occasion in the

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County and State YAKIMA, WA

early days in which Mr. Stuart swam the swollen waters of the Yakima River to deliver the Masons' local charter. The ceremony included many prominent citizens in the community.

The architects of the project were W. W. DeVeaux of North Yakima and his associate, Frederick Heath of Tacoma. Heath was reputed to have been a student of an archaeological excavation which unearthed and restored the famous temple of Solomon. This context was compatible with the Masonic focus on the origins of humankind as they extended back to the time of Solomon. Fittingly, it was decided that the Lodge Hall on the sixth floor should be a replica of Solomon's Temple, and the finest representation of the inner Temple of Solomon.

The stone for the keystone for the arch of the main entrance of the building was to come from quarries outside of Jerusalem, where stones were supposed to have been obtained for the construction of Solomon's Temple. The American Consul at Jerusalem was a mason himself and supervised the stones' procurement and its eventual delivery to North Yakima. The material was shipped in block form and was to be cut to its desired shape and size after arrival. The stone was said to have passed through the hands of famous masons along the way, who affixed their signets, decorations, and emblems upon it. The keystone was to be the first from King Solomon's quarries ever set in a masonic temple in the United States.

Because of those skeptical of the stone's origin, William Coffin, American Consul at Jerusalem, publicly attested to its authenticity on April 12, 1911.

The placing of the keystone was to be the biggest Masonic pageant ever held in the state. Chapter members came from Spokane, Bellingham, and Dayton to name a few. The event took place on Tacoma Day, September 27, 1911, in conjunction with the Washington State Fair, (now called the Central Washington State Fair). The Masons coordinated their ceremony with fair authorities and shared in the parade that took its route down Yakima Avenue. The Masons featured Ferullo's New York Band of 52 pieces and 40 singers. Band members dressed in costumes representing the time of Solomon, including two members dressed in robes and breastplates as King Solomon of Israel and Hiram of Tyre. Thousands of people from all over the state who were attending the fair also witnessed the Masons' grand ceremony, which placed the keystone in the arch at the entrance of the building.

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Name of Property MASONIC TEMPLE

County and State YAKIMA, WA

The former Masonic Temple represents important social significance from an historical perspective. Fraternal organizations such as the Masons, played an important role in the development of American culture. Before television, people relied much more heavily on such organizations for social interaction. Persons from all professions were represented among the Masons. Some of this country's forebears, such as George Washington, were Masons. By the time of this building's construction in 1911, the Masonic membership numbered 250 across the state. The organization promoted ideals which encouraged persons from all professions to work toward building strong communities. The building's physical stature and architectural sophistication serve as a reminder of these social and civic bonds and the spirit of cooperation and accomplishment which characterized Yakima's early years.

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Name of Property MASONIC TEMPLE

County and State YAKIMA, WA

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Yakima Daily Republic

1910: January 29, February 16, May 7, July 6, August 20, August 24,
September 9, September 10, September 13, November 14, December 28.

1911: January 27, February 4, March 17, July 14, August 25, September 15, September 29.

Yakima Herald Republic, November 30, 1965.

Files of Thomas F. Hargis, Jr.

Yakima Valley Museum Archives

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Name of Property MASONIC TEMPLE

County and State YAKIMA, WA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 11 and 12, Block 70, Town of North Yakima

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the building.