

Historic Name: Clearwater Masonic Lodge No. 28/G.A.R. Hall No. 112 Common Name: Masonic Lodge Owner's Name and Address: Masonic Lodge A.F. and A.M. Clearwater, Minnesota 55320		County: Wright Community: Clearwater, Minnesota Address/Legal Desc.: Oak and Main Streets (NW corner)
Classification: Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure _____ Object _____ District _____		Acreage: Less than one acre
Condition: Excellent _____ Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair _____ Deteriorated _____		Verbal Boundary Desc.: Clearwater Plat Lots 4,5,6,7,8 Block 114
Open to the Public: Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visible from the road: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____	
Occupied: Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Present Use: Masonic Lodge/Storage	
History: Date Constructed: 1888 Architect/Builder: unknown		UTM Reference: 15/417910/5030100 Clearwater Quad.
Original Owner: Masonic Lodge Original Use: Masonic Lodge, G.A.R. Hall and Store		
Description: The Masonic Lodge building is located on the northwest corner of Oak Street and Main Street (Lots 4,5,6,7, and 8, Block 114 of the Original Plat of Clearwater). The intersection of Oak and Main Streets was once the heart of Clearwater's business district. The lodge, which is currently surrounded by residences and wooded lots, is a prominent reminder of Clearwater's early, busier days. The Lodge is a two story, rectangular building of brick construction. Approximately sixty feet long and fifty-two feet wide, it is three bays long and two bays wide. The second floor window surrounds are semi-circular arches with stone slip sills; they embellish one-over-one panes. The openings are arcaded on the front facade and are centrally placed on the longitudinal facade. (see continuation sheet)		Level of Significance: Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State _____ Nation _____
		Status: Survey _____ Date _____ Local _____ State <u>9/73,2/78</u> Nat'l. Reg. _____ Nat'l. Land. _____ HABS/HAER _____
Significance: The building constructed in 1888 to house the Clearwater Masonic Lodge No. 28/G.A.R. Hall No. 112 is significant for its historical associations with the fraternal and social institutions which were established in the Village of Clearwater and in numerous rural communities within Wright County. These institutions, which included, Masons, Odd Fellows, Patrons of Husbandry, and the Grand Army of the Republic, provided leadership, direction, and contributions to the county's political, educational, patriotic and social life. Clearwater Masonic Lodge No. 28 was organized and instituted in October of 1858. It was the second of eight Masonic Lodges established in the county between 1856 and 1905. The lodge erected the two-story brick building (see continuation sheet)		Theme/s: Primary <u>Societies and Organizations</u> Secondary <u>Architecture</u> Other _____
		Local Contact/Org.: Wright County Historical Society, Buffalo, Minnesota
		Prepared by and date: John J. Hackett August 1978

Description:

Two double door entrances are equally spaced on the first floor of the principal facade. Large rectangular, single sash windows originally flanked the doors; these openings have been replaced with weatherboard and small casement windows. Corner windows have been bricked in. A double door freight entrance is located on the east facade; a single door to the lodge rooms is located on the second floor of the west wall. Exterior walls are a local cream brick laid in a stretcher bond. Decorative brickwork is used in the eaves, belt coursing, water tables, arches, and pilasters. Metal date and inscription plaques are located near the tops of the pilasters on the front facade. The flat roof is surrounded on three sides by a parapet capped with a partially remaining metal molding.

Structurally, the commercial building has been altered by the addition of a pent roof on the front facade. Cement ramps have replaced earlier wood ramps. The window panes on the second floor have been covered over with wood boards. An additional door opening has replaced one of the window openings on the east facade. It also appears that a one story addition was attached and removed at unknown period in the building's history. Structurally, the integrity of the exterior remains intact and could easily be brought back to its original appearance. Overall, the building is in good condition.

Significance:

in 1888 within the business district of the village. As was often the case in the county, the building housed the lodge on the second floor and provided commercial space on the first. The latter supplied rental income.

At the time the building was erected the Grand Army of the Republic Post No. 112 utilized the west bay of the building. (The G.A.R. was a national organization established by Union veterans of the Civil War to preserve friendship, honor fallen comrades, aid widows and the handicapped, and to help communities in which its members resided.) Clearwater Township was locally noted as one of the most patriotic during the Civil War, never having been subjected to the draft. The local post was named after a local volunteer, Private A.C. Collins (of A Company, Third Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melona Lyman
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Note: These changes apply to
Clearwater Masonic Lodge No. 28 in
Wright County, Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 79001259

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Wright

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Clearwater Masonic Lodge-
Grand Army of the Republic Hall

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal
Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988
Date