

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

Name of property: Kilbourn Masonic TempleOwner: Trustees of Kilbourn Masonic TempleAddress: 827 North 11th StreetOwner's address: 827 North 11th StreetCity: MilwaukeeMilwaukee, WI 53233

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

160 NRHP Certification (date)

- Listed in NRHP (LI)
 Determined eligible in DOE process (DD)
 Determined eligible in nomination process (DN)
 Additional documentation added to nomination (AD)
 Boundary increased (BI)
 Boundary decreased (BD)
 Delisted (DL)

170 Thematic or Multiple Resource Nomination Name (code)

180 NRHP List Name Kilbourn Masonic Temple

190 Level of Significance

- national (NA)
 state (ST)
 local (LO)

200 District Classification

- pivotal (P)
 contributing (C)
 non-contributing (NC)

210 Applicable Criteria

- event (A)
 person (B)
 architecture/engineering (C)
 information potential (D)

215 Criteria Considerations

- religious property (A)
 moved property (B)
 birthplace or grave (C)
 cemetery (D)
 reconstructed property (E)
 commemorative property (F)
 less than 50 years old (G)

220 Area of Significance (code)

Social/humanitarianArchitecture

230 Period of Significance

1911 - 1934

340 Review Board Date

70 USGS Quad Map

SW/4 Milwaukee 7.5 min 1:24,000

80 UTM Coordinates (Format: 99-999999-9999999)

16° 42' 55" - 47° 55' 20"85 Listed Acreage Less than one acre

60 Verbal Boundary Description Survey and Subdivision into city lots of the North 30 acres, etc. in the Northwest quarter section 29-7-22, Block 192, Lot 4 and South 11.43 feet of Lot 3.

STREET: North 11th Street

NUMBER: 827-29

**SHSW INTENSIVE
SURVEY FORM**

LOCATION

10 County Milwaukee

20 City or Village Milwaukee

30 Civil Town _____

35 Unincorporated Community _____

40 Location 827-29 North 11th Street

50 Town-Range-Section _____

55 Quarter Sections _____

60 Verbal Boundary Description Survey and subdivision into city lots of the North 30 acres, etc. in the Northwest quarter section 29-7-22, block 192, lot 4, and South 11.43 feet of lot 3.

PROGRAM REVIEW

250 Tax Case Number _____

260 Compliance Case Number _____

270 A or D Grant Yes No

275 Covenant/Easement Dates _____

320 Ownership

private (P)

local-public (L)

state-public (S)

federal-public (F)

mixed, private-public (M)

330 Lead Agency (code) _____

SURVEY

90 Photo Codes MI 91-9

100 Survey Map 391

110 Map Code 91-9

120 Reconnaissance Survey Date 1979

130 Reconnaissance Surveyor Wenger/Hunton/Jensen

140 Intensive Survey Name (code) Westside

150 Intensive Surveyor Wenger/Hatala

155 Intensive Survey FY 1983

235 Survey Evaluation

eligible (E) not eligible (N)

237 Survey District Classification

pivotal (P) non-contributing (NC)

contributing (C)

240 Survey Level of Significance

national (NA) local (LO)

state (ST)

243 Survey Evaluation Criteria

event (A) architectural/engineering (C)

person (B) information potential (D)

245 Proposed District _____

280 NHL Date _____

290 HABS No. _____ 300 HAER No. _____

310 Local Landmark (code) _____

315 Associated Archeological Site(s) _____

Street**Address****ARCHITECTURE**

570 Number of Stories

580 Roof Shape (code)

450 Date of Construction (source)

1911 (A)2Hip

460 Dates of Alterations/Additions (source)

1935 (A)

590 Additional Description

480 Builder (source) C. A. Kleppe (A)

620 Condition

490 and 500 Designer Type and Name (source)

X architect: H. P. Schnetzky and Son (A)X excellent ___ good ___ fair ___ poor ___ ruins

___ artist: _____

650 Related Buildings (code)

___ engineer: _____

___ interior designer: _____

___ landscape architect: _____

X other: (Mason) Paul Riesen Sons (A)**HISTORY**

510 Style or Form (code)

Neoclassical430 Common/Current Name Kilbourn Masonic Lodge #3

520 Building, Structure, Object or Site Type (code)

Lodge/Clubhouse

440 Historic Names (source)

530 Building Materials (code) Asphalt/Asbestos Shingles (roof)Brick _____ Brick (foundation)
(Primary Building Material)

660 Associated Individual(s) (dates) (source)

Charles Von Baumbach (1883-85) (B+C)Dr. and Mrs. Carl Reinhard (1894-1910) (B+C)

670 Associated Event (source)

540 Interior Visited Yes ___ No

680 Commercial/Industrial Historic Uses (source)

550 Structural System (code)

Rectangular

560 Plan Configuration (code)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The first Masonic meeting in Milwaukee took place on July 5, 1843, at which time there were about 40-50 Masons in the city. They petitioned for a dispensation under which a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons could be organized. Approval came from the Grand Master in Springfield, Illinois. The document was dated June 12, 1843, but signed January 17, 1844. The initial lodge was first called the Milwaukee Lodge but later became known as Kilbourn Lodge #3 after adoption of changes in the bylaws.

After this, numerous other lodges were chartered, including the Royal Arch Masons (chartered February 16, 1844), the Blue Lodges (chartered September 7, 1872), and the Commandery, which was organized June 12, 1850.

Kilbourn Lodge #3 met at the Masonic Temple on today's North Plankinton Avenue, between West Wisconsin and Wells, until 1899. After occupying two temporary headquarters, Kilbourn Lodge #3 settled into the clubhouse; it still uses today at 827 North 11th Street. The site was occupied by an old residence that the masons remodeled by constructing a new classical facade designed by H. Paul Schnetzky and Son that completely enclosed the former dwelling. (B,C)

HISTORICAL STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kilbourn Lodge #3 is primarily of historical significance as the first Masonic lodge to be chartered in Milwaukee and one of the original three lodges to be established in Wisconsin in 1843. Milwaukee's 40 to 50 practicing Masons at that time had been subject to the dictates of the Grand Master of Illinois before organizing their own lodge. Milwaukee's Kilbourn Lodge, together with the Mineral Point and Melody Lodges, organized the Grand Lodge of the State of Wisconsin in 1843 which governed all masonic activities for the state. The Kilbourn Lodge was named after one of the chapters most illustrious presidents, Byron Kilbourn.

DESCRIPTION

The Kilbourn Masonic Temple is a two story Neo-Classical Revival Style structure designed by H. Paul Schnetzky and Son in 1911. This temple-like form surrounds a former residence on the site. A portion of that residence is still visible at the rear. The main facade along 11th Street is relatively simple and features six Ionic pilasters resting on a raised stone foundation. An abbreviated pediment surmounts the pilasters and intersects a hipped roof. Rectangular windows are located at the second story level only with blind brick panels responding to them at the first story level. This arrangement of windows and pilasters continues across the north and south elevations. The main entrance is located to the rear of the south elevation in a rectangular bay which projects perpendicular to the main body of the building. A front entry was installed in 1935 in the 11th Street facade at the basement level. The exterior is otherwise unchanged since 1911.

The main hall of the temple is a large open room lit by the second story windows referred to above. Short pilasters separate the pairs of windows and extend only two thirds of the way down the wall to terminate at a cornice that runs the perimeter of the room. Capitals are of an abstracted floral pattern and are not attributable to any classical prototype. The room is oriented toward a recessed alcove at the west end with a dais and chairs for the Masonic officials.

A pair of battered Egyptian Revival door frames flank this recess and winged figures ornament the cavetto cornice. The beamed ceiling had leaded-glass, bowl-shaped pendant light fixtures down the center with shaded hanging lamps along the sides of the room. Furnishings, evident from historic photographs, were mission-inspired and some of the chairs were decorated with winged figures. The fireplaces and staircases of the original mansion remain intact in other parts of the building.

ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kilbourn Masonic Temple is architecturally significant as a dignified Neo-Classical Revival structure exhibiting high quality design. The project is made more interesting because it is actually a remodeling of a large nineteenth century residence which remains mostly intact behind its imposing new front. H. Paul Schnetzky was a prominent Milwaukee architect who is better known for the works he collaborated on with Eugene R. Liebert. Schnetzky had a predilection for classically-inspired designs of which the Kilbourn Lodge is one of the best of his small commissions.

690 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES (SOURCES)

- A. Milwaukee City Building Permits.
- B. Conard, Howard Lewis. History of Milwaukee County. Vol. II. Chicago: American Biographical Publishing Company, 1895. p. 280.
- C. History of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Chicago: The Western Historical Company, 1881. p. 959.
- D. Steele, Glen. Letter to Milwaukee Landmarks Commission. July 22, 1973.

700 STUDY UNITS (CODE)

_____	_____
_____	_____

350 Demolished	360 Date Demolished
_____ Yes _____ No	_____