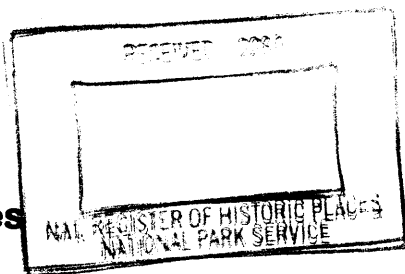


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUL 13 2006



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 an 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 Chariton Masonic Temple

other names/site number Chariton Masonic Lodge #63 AF & AM

2. Location

street & number 821 Armory Avenue [N/A] Not for publication

city or town Chariton [N/A] vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Lucas code 117 zip code 50049

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. see continuation sheet for additional comments).

Donnelly J. Sorke, Deputy SHPO July 26, 2006
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the 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:)

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

9.6.06
Date of Action

Chariton Masonic Temple
Name of Property

Lucas County, IA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<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.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

The Architectural Career of William L. Perkins in Iowa: 1917-1957 0

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)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls STONE

BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other _____

Narrative Description

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

Chariton Masonic Temple
Name of Property

Lucas County, IA
County and State

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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1937

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Perkins, William L.

Best, E.H. and Sons

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

Chariton Masonic Temple
Name of Property

Lucas County, IA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	[1][5]	[4][7][4][2][2][4]	[4][5][4][0][1][7][0]	2	[1][5]	[0][0][0][0][0][0]	[0][0][0][0][0][0]
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	[1][5]	[0][0][0][0][0][0]	[0][0][0][0][0][0]	4	[1][5]	[0][0][0][0][0][0]	[0][0][0][0][0][0]

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 Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant

organization _____ date March 2006

street & number 167 West Alta Vista telephone 641-682-2743

city or town Ottumwa state IA zip code 52501-1437

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Chariton Masonic Lodge #63 AF & AM c/o Bret Runyon, Grand Master

street & number 821 Armory Avenue telephone 641- 774-7469

city or town Chariton state IA zip code 50049

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

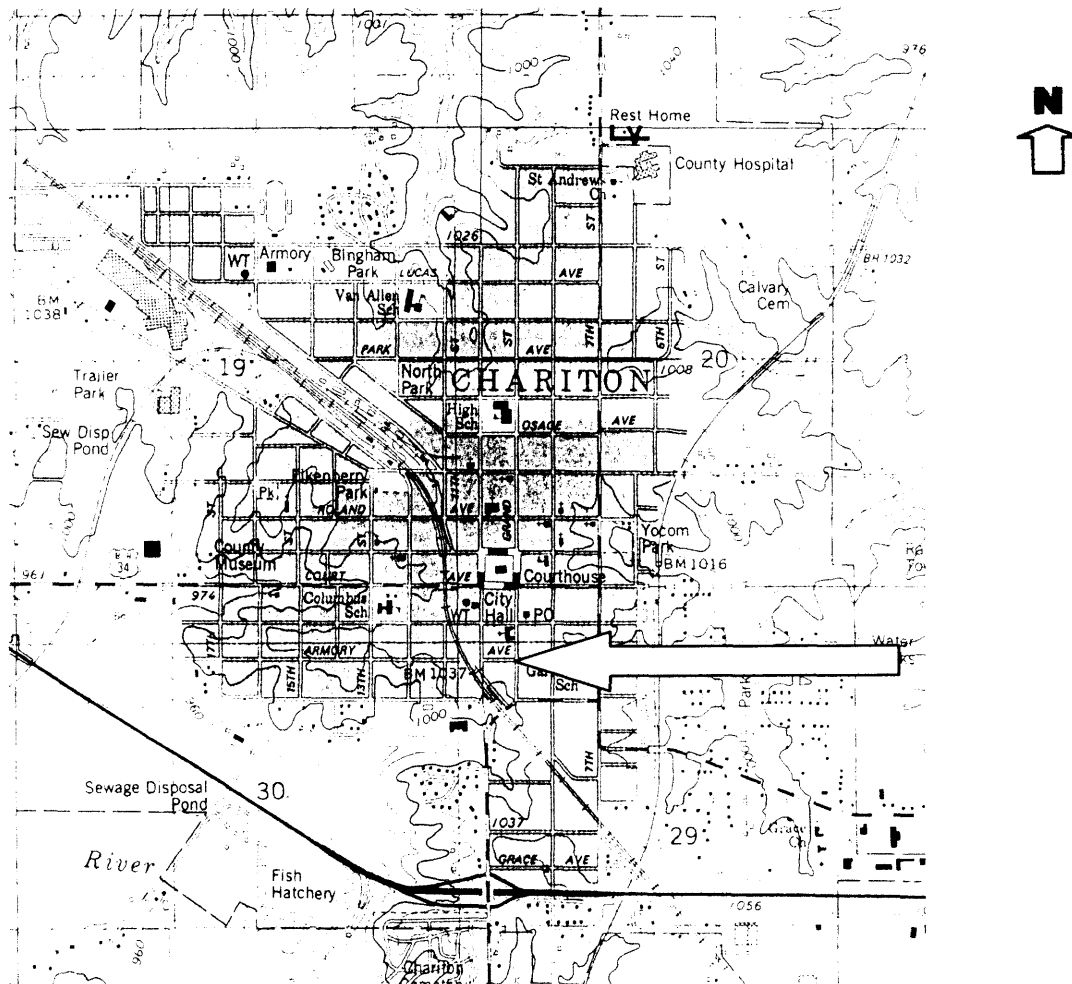
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

**Chariton Masonic Temple
Lucas County, Iowa**

Section number 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The Chariton Masonic Temple (1937) was designed by architect William L. Perkins. Chariton is the seat of Lucas County. Lucas County is the second county north of the Missouri line, the sixth county west of the Mississippi River, and the sixth county east of the Missouri River. The Art Deco style building is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Grand Street and Armory Avenue facing south. The temple is in a residential neighborhood two blocks south of the southeast corner of the Public Square. Like Perkins' other Chariton buildings, the temple is of fireproof construction utilizing reinforced concrete, steel, brick, and in this case, stone.



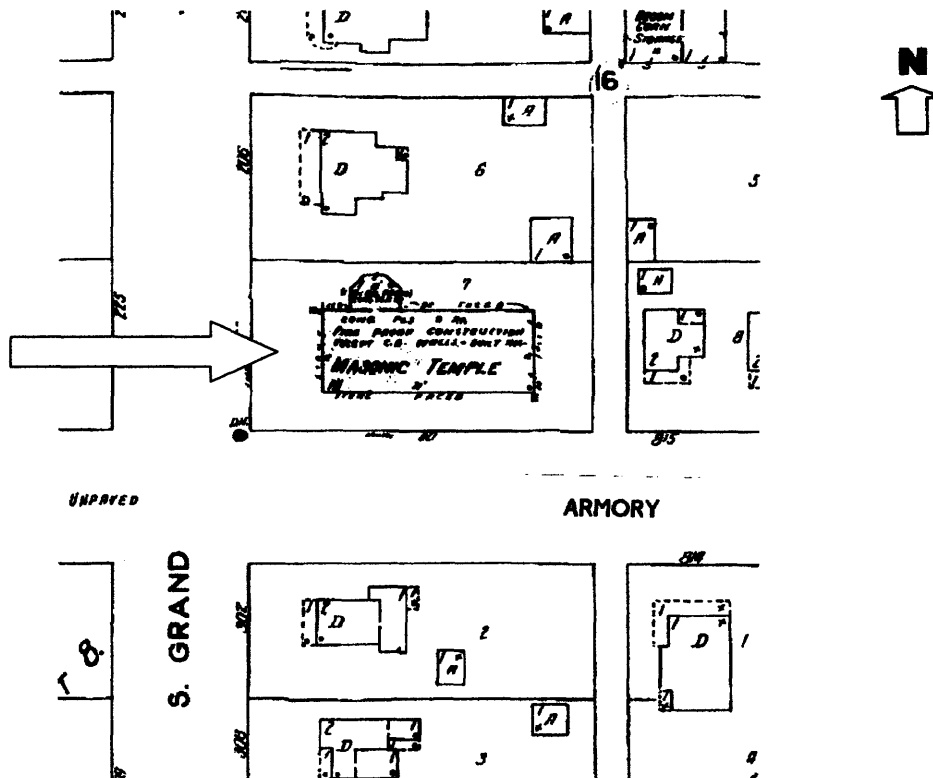
U.S.G.S. Map of Chariton
Arrow indicates location of resource
(Note Public Square in the Center)

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Chariton Masonic Temple
Lucas County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 2



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (1927+), p 15
Arrow indicates location of resource

Exterior:

This free-standing rectangular building measures 42 feet by 103 feet with an east/west axis. The building contains two stories with a high foundation (the lower story is slightly below grade level) and has a flat roof that slopes gently to the rear. It is surrounded by a green lawn. The two primary elevations (south and west) are clad with ashlar limestone blocks, while the secondary elevations (east and north) are clad with a brick that closely matches the color of the stone. A single brick chimney is located on the rear elevation near the west end.

The temple features an asymmetrical façade on the south elevation with the main entrance situated near the west end. This is a monumental entrance with simple stone pilasters

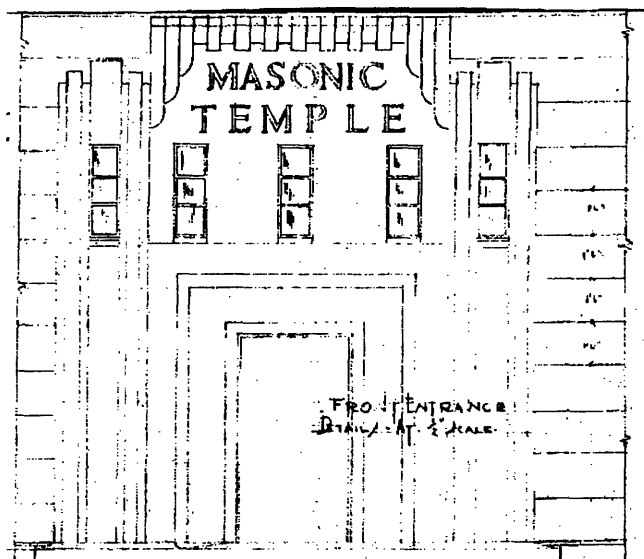
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Chariton Masonic Temple
Lucas County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 3

on each side, a zig-zag cornice across the top, and a door recessed deep within the stone. Five vertical windows are located above the doorway, three in the center part, and a single one in each pilaster. The words "Masonic Temple" are incised just below the cornice. The original lighting fixtures are found on each side of the doorway.



Drawing of entrance, William L. Perkins, 1936
(All drawings courtesy of the Chariton Masonic Temple)

A series of four fluted pilasters are arranged along the south side, a pair just east of the entrance and another pair closer to the east end. Each of these pilastered sections contains two square windows, a high window for the main floor, and a low window for the lower level. Between these windows is a pattern of reverse (convex) fluting. At the top of each pilaster is a medallion containing a single Masonic symbol. The four symbols shown on the south elevation are:

- 1) The Square and Compass, universal Masonic symbol, teaches honesty and temperance
- 2) The Level, working tool of the Masonic fraternity, it teaches equality
- 3) The Square, teaches Masons to square their actions by the square of virtue
- 4) The Plumb, teaches Masons to walk uprightly before God and man

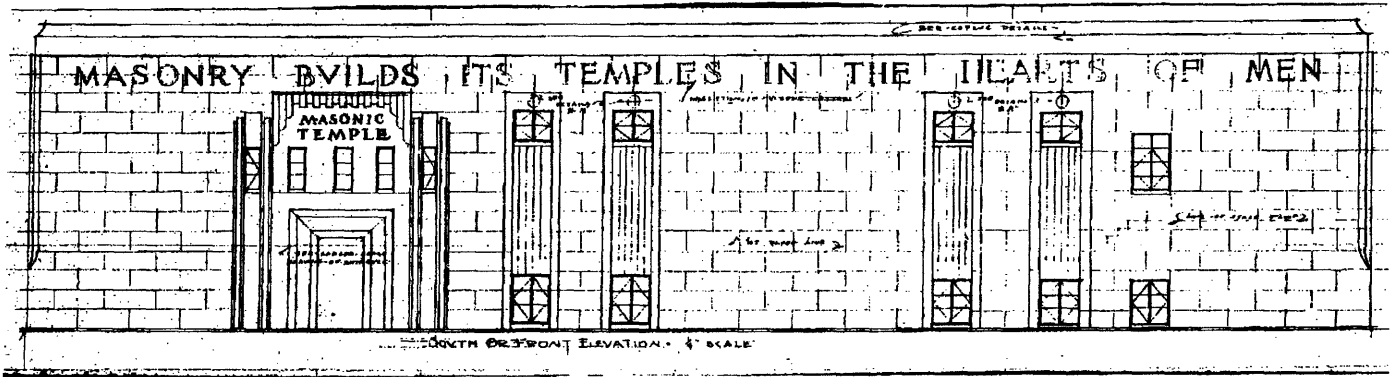
At the east end of the façade are two square windows that are not contained within the framework of a pilaster. An incised frieze across the south elevation reads, "Masonry Builds Its Temples In The Hearts of Men."

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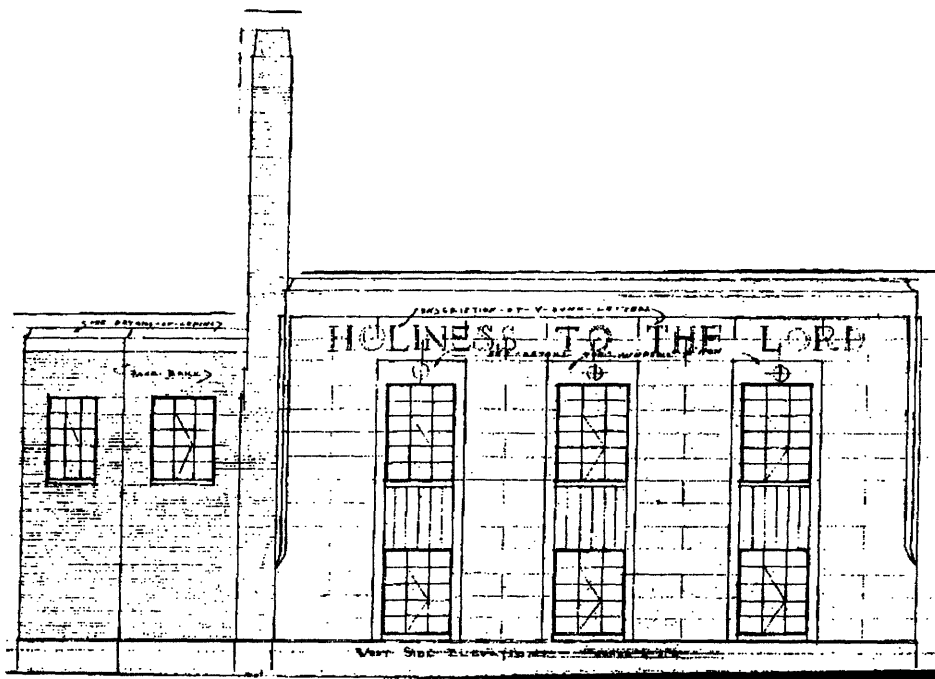
Chariton Masonic Temple
Lucas County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 4



Drawing of façade (south elevation), William L. Perkins, 1936

Drawing of west elevation, William L. Perkins, 1936



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Chariton Masonic Temple
Lucas County, Iowa**

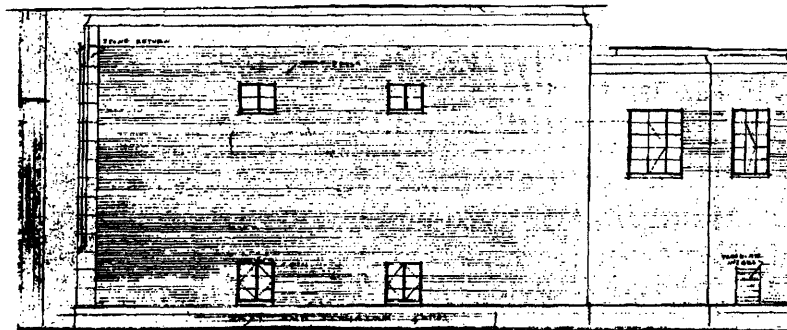
Section number 7 Page 5

The west elevation is treated in the same manner as the façade, but in this case it contains three sets of windows that are somewhat larger but still contained within the framework of pilasters. Again, there is a section of convex fluting between the upper and lower windows, and medallions containing Masonic symbols at the top. These symbols are:

- 1) Keystone, the symbol for Chapter, one of the York Rite degrees.
- 2) Square and Compass, universal Masonic symbol
- 3) Christian Cross, the symbol for Commandery, one of the York Rite degrees.

The incised frieze on this elevation reads, "Holiness To The Lord." The northwest, southwest, and southeast corners of the building have an incised vertical element that extends from about four feet above the ground to the roofline. The roofline itself is a series of setbacks that now takes on added visual emphasis as this cornice area has been coated with a white rubber/vinyl material when the roof was re-done in the past several years.

The east end of the building contains two pairs of small square windows matching the size of those on the façade, but there is no pilastered treatment. This wall and the north (rear) wall are of brick. The stonework from the primary elevations wraps around the southeast and northwest corners, providing visual continuity. The rear elevation has three sets of upper and lower openings toward the east end of the wall. These are all small square windows, except for the east end of the upper level, which is a door. A set of metal steps leads to this doorway. Farther to the west, near the apsidal shaped wing is a single upper level window and two small lower ones. The apse has windows on the diagonal and north walls; those on the lower level are slightly smaller. The brick chimney rises from within the corner of the apse and the west end of the rear wall.



Drawing of east elevation, William L. Perkins, 1936

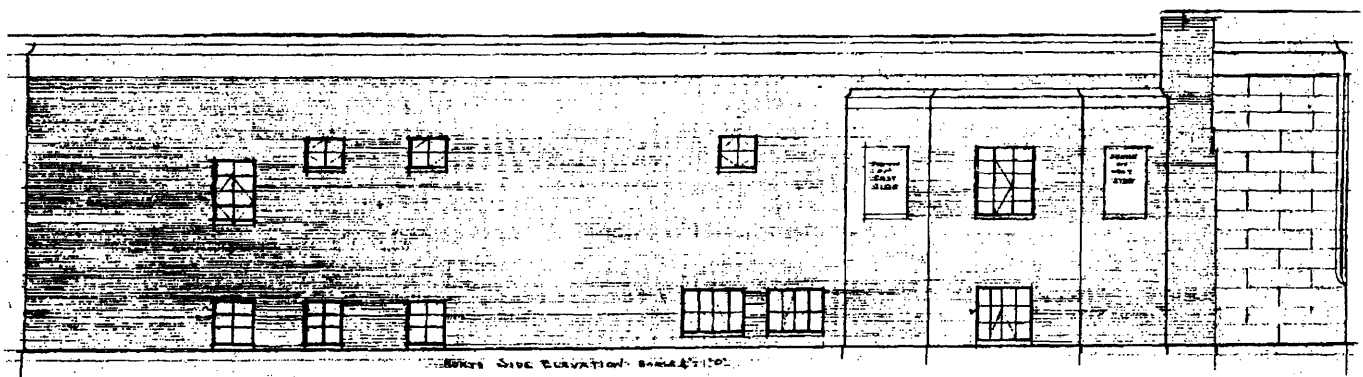
United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Chariton Masonic Temple
Lucas County, Iowa

Section number 7

Page 6



Drawing of north elevation, William L. Perkins, 1936

Interior:

The interior of the temple is what we commonly call a split foyer today. The front entrance opens onto a terrazzo floored landing, with steps on the right leading up to the main floor, and those on the left leading down to the lower level. The stairway railing is of wrought iron with a brass handrail. Perkins included drawings for the stairs and railing in his plans.

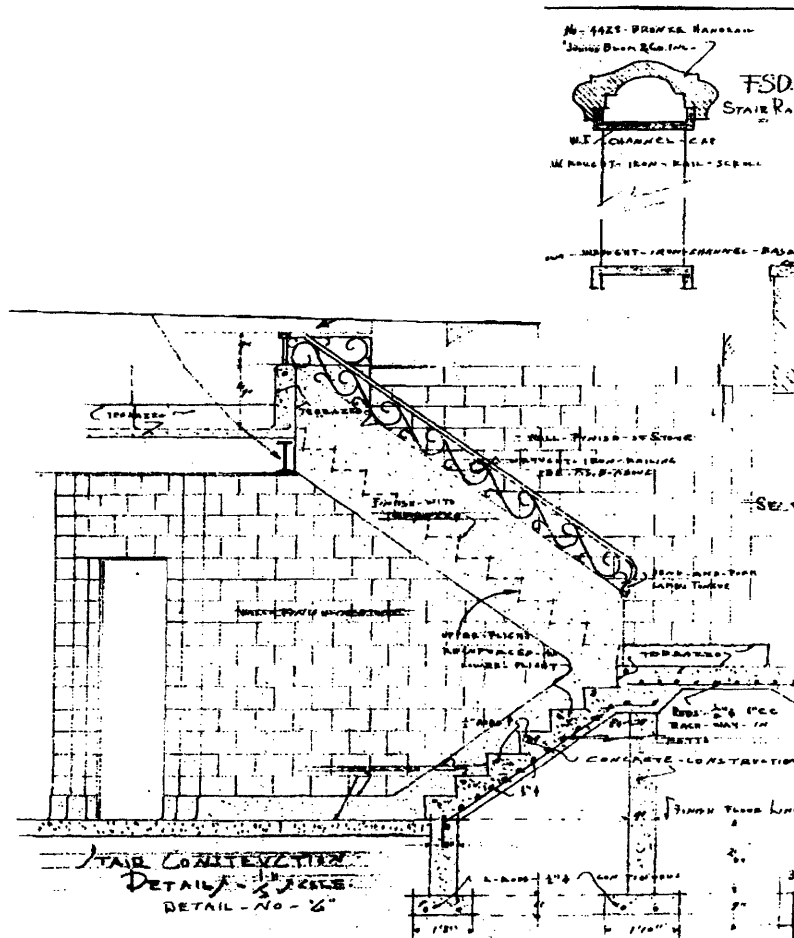
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Chariton Masonic Temple
Lucas County, Iowa

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Page 7



Drawing of staircase and railing, William L. Perkins, 1936

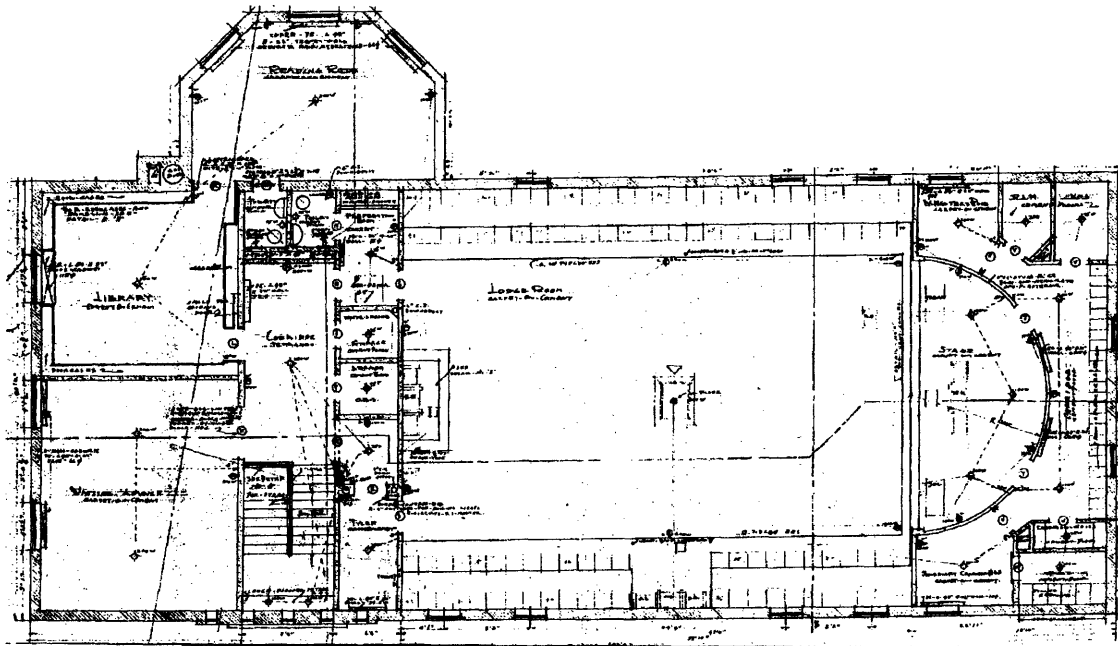
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Chariton Masonic Temple
Lucas County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 8

The main (upper) floor houses the rooms most significant to Masonic ritual. A broad (8 foot 6 inch) north/south corridor is located at the top of the steps. Opening off this corridor is the 22 feet by 18 feet waiting lounge in the southwest corner and the 16 feet square wood paneled library in the northwest corner. Opening off the library is the polygonal reading room (approximately 22 feet by 16 feet) on the north side. Opening off the corridor to the right (east) are four doors leading to either small, storage rooms or preparation rooms, with two of these then leading into the approximately 64 feet by 40 feet lodge room. It was designed with 104 permanent seats along the side walls. At the far east end of the lodge room is a semi-circular 13 feet by 26 feet stage with offices behind. Floors of all the rooms feature carpet over cement, while the corridor has a terrazzo floor of intricate design with brass dividing strips. Walls are of plaster with a rough stone finish that is scored to look like stone blocks.



Plan of main (upper) floor, William L. Perkins, 1936

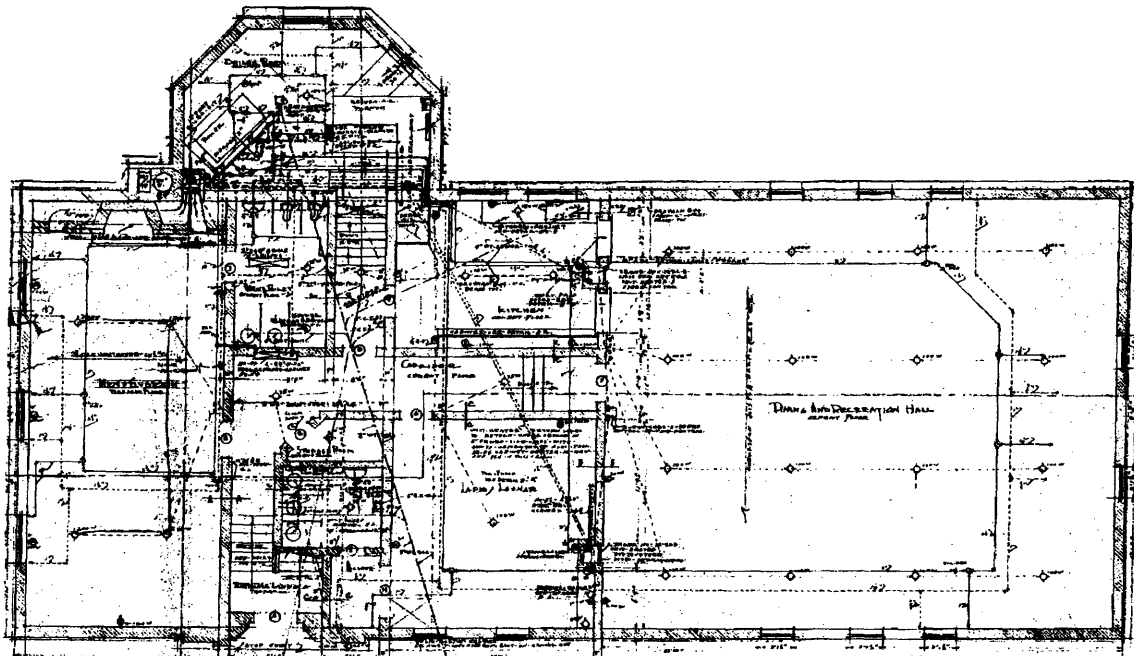
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Chariton Masonic Temple
Lucas County, Iowa

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The lower level features the broad corridor, with the men's club room opening off to the west. This room extends the full length of the end of the building, measuring approximately 18 feet by 40 feet. Like the corridor the club room has a terrazzo floor and the entire north wall is of brick with a large brick fireplace in the center. The men's rest rooms are reached by a door at the northeast corner of the room. Opening off the north end of the corridor is a door leading to steps down to the heating plant located in the apse on the north side of the building. Opening off the corridor to the right is a hallway that leads to the ladies' lounge (12 feet by 16 feet) on the south side of the building, and a well equipped kitchen (12 feet square) on the north side. The entire east end of the building is devoted to the dining room/recreation hall, a large room measuring approximately 64 feet by 40 feet. Except for the main corridor and club room, the floors are of concrete and walls are of plaster.



Plan of lower level, William L. Perkins, 1936

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Continuation Sheet**

**Chariton Masonic Temple
Lucas County, Iowa**

Section number **7** Page **10**

Integrity:

The Chariton Masonic Temple (Lodge #63 AF & AM) may have the highest degree of integrity of any of Perkins' designs in Chariton. It retains a high level in all seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The location and setting are unimpaired, providing the feeling that was part of Perkins' original plans. The design, materials, and workmanship stand out today, just as they did in 1937. The continued use as a Masonic Temple has been the reason the building has been maintained as Perkins designed it. The integrity of the interior is absolutely amazing. Any Mason from past decades could walk in and feel immediately at home. This integrity extends even to the lighting fixtures. The integrity of the exterior has been slightly impaired by the unfortunate application of the white rubber/vinyl material over the cornice area, apparently to alleviate water problems. This is not significant enough to negate National Register eligibility.

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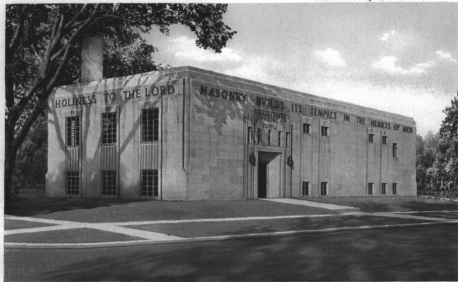
Chariton Masonic Temple
Lucas County, Iowa

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Chariton Masonic Temple (1937) is locally significant under Criterion C as the last major design in Chariton by local architect William L. Perkins, and as a fine example of Art Deco design executed in stone and brick. It meets the Registration Requirements established in the Multiple Property Document "The Architectural Career of William L. Perkins in Iowa: 1917-1957" as it was designed by Perkins, it is located on the original site with the original materials and craftsmanship readily visible, and the site itself retains the open green space around it. The neighborhood has remained residential. The building is of local interest as the home of the Chariton Masonic organizations, groups that played a major role in the social and cultural life of the community.

Masonic Temple, Chariton, Iowa



08473

Chariton Masonic Temple, Lodge #63, A.F. & A.M.
(Undated historic postcard courtesy of Chariton Free Public Library)

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Continuation Sheet

Chariton Masonic Temple
Lucas County, Iowa

Section number 8

Page 12

Criterion C:

It was logical that the Chariton Masonic Lodge would turn to William L. Perkins to design their new building, as Perkins was a long-time member of the organization and was serving as the secretary at the time that he completed these plans.

During his career Perkins designed at least two other Masonic Temples in Iowa (Bedford and Knoxville) and served as a consultant to the firm of Hansen & Waggoner of Mason City in the design of the Grand Lodge of Iowa A.F. & A.M. Library and Museum in Cedar Rapids (1953-55).

The Knoxville temple (1925) is a free-standing two-story structure of variegated dark brown brick with stone trim. Perkins blended Neo-Classical and Gothic Revival details such as the pilasters at the entry and the stone-capped brick buttresses. The letter "G" is found in the stone panel above the front entrance identifying this as a Masonic Temple instead of the more common Square and Compass. The building is no longer used by the Masonic organizations.



TOP:
Historic View of the Knoxville Masonic Temple
(Courtesy Knoxville Public Library)

BOTTOM:
Knoxville Masonic Temple
(Photograph by Shawn Garton, June 2006)



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National Park Service

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Chariton Masonic Temple
Lucas County, Iowa

Section number 8 Page 13

The Bedford Masonic Temple (1930s) is a two-story structure, apparently with a raised main floor. It is of light to medium colored tan brick with a symmetrical façade and stone trim. The entrance features a limestone surround with doors flanked by stone buttresses, and the roof is crenellated with stone coping. Above the entrance the Masonic Square and Compass are carved in the stone, and above this is a decorative panel much like that found on the Chariton City Hall except that the date was not included. Both the Knoxville and Bedford buildings are extant.



Bedford Masonic Temple
(Photograph by Sandy Kennedy, Bedford Public Library, March 2006)

Perkins' decision to use the highly stylized Art Deco design for the Masonic Temple in his hometown may speak to the importance of the Masonic organization in his life....he may have seen this as the most important building that he had designed. At any rate, the use of Art Deco set this building apart from all others in the community. In the design for the City Hall and Fire Station five years earlier Perkins had continued his use of the Neo-classical, but had given the entrance a touch of Art Deco in its massing and shape. With the Masonic Temple he was ready to let go of the Neo-classical and allow the Art Deco to take over. The style, simplicity of design, and a masterful handling of blank, or "negative," spaces gave the building a monumental, commanding presence. The use of stone for the primary elevations is another indication of the perceived importance of this building, both by its members and as part of the community. In the middle of the Great Depression, stone was a luxury that many could not afford. Perkins skillfully blended brick of similar color with the stone to create the harmonious design.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Chariton Masonic Temple
Lucas County, Iowa**

Section number **8** Page **14**

On 26 March 1936 the *Chariton Herald-Patriot* headline announced "Chariton Masons Will Spend \$33,000 for Temple." The article went on to tell about the awarding of contracts for the construction, all of which went to local firms. E.H. Best & Son's bid of \$33,000 for the general construction contract was just \$88 lower than that of another local contract, P.E. Johnson & Son. The plumbing and heating contract for \$4500 went to the Holmes Plumbing and Heating Co. The description of the building in the article is almost exactly as the building was constructed. It is interesting to note that there were several paragraphs devoted to the interior arrangement and finish, but the only description of the exterior was, "It will be faced with stone on the south, north and west sides, and the front of the building will bear Masonic inscriptions above the entrance."

Just as the use of stone on the exterior created the appearance of substance, so did the use of terrazzo, rich wood paneling, and wrought iron with brass trim on the interior. The simplicity of the exterior is seen also on the interior, but it is enhanced by the richness of the materials. The library and reading room have a different, warmer feeling due to the extensive use of wood than do the rooms that more closely associated with the ritual of the Masonic activities.

Historic Background:

"Chariton Lodge Number 63 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons was authorized by dispensation on 27 August 1854 and was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Iowa on 6 June 1855." (100th Anniversary: Chariton Lodge No 63, title page) In this way the Masons joined the Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) and Knights of Pythias (K. of P.) in establishing fraternal and benevolent organizations that would allow the men of Chariton to gather in fellowship and to provide support to their community through various charitable projects. In 1882 the Masons and Odd Fellows completed a new building on the south side of the Public Square that would provide lodge hall space for both groups as well as commercial space on the first floor. In 1904 the Masons bought the building from the Odd Fellows and used it until the Art Deco building at the corner of Grand and Armory was completed in 1937.

Construction of the new temple was authorized on 3 October 1935, and a building committee composed of the following men was appointed: Mark L. Spencer, Noel W. Cloud, Homer L. Stewart, Charles E. Fluke, and L.E. Callison. Preliminary work on the building which would house all local Masonic bodies was to be started in early April, with completion anticipated in "three or four months." (*Chariton Herald-Patriot*, 26 March 1936)

The cornerstone of the building was laid with great ceremony on 28 May 1936.

Grand Officer Lay Cornerstone
(3 column photograph)
400 Attend Lodge Ceremony, Grand Officers Preside
Impressive Program Given by Masons at Site of New Temple

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Chariton Masonic Temple
Lucas County, Iowa**

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Approximately 400 persons, 200 of them Masons, were at the site of the new Masonic temple here Friday afternoon as grand officers of the Iowa lodge conducted the impressive Masonic ceremonial for the laying of the cornerstone.

The stone was formally placed at the northeast corner of the structure by Grand Master John T. Ames of Traer, IA.

The only address other than those included in the lodge ritual was an impromptu talk by Dr. Tom B. Throckmorton of Des Moines, a former resident of Chariton.

The American Legion Junior Band, under the direction of Herbert Johnson, took part in the parade and program. Marchers in the parade included sixty Knights Templars of the Emanuel Commandery of Chariton in uniform.

"From time immemorial," Grand Master Ames explained as the cornerstone ceremonial began, "it has been the custom of the ancient and honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, upon request, to lay, with their ancient forms, the cornerstones of buildings erected for the worship of God, for educational or charitable objects, for Masonic uses, or for the purposes of the administration of Justice and free government, and no other buildings.

"This cornerstone, therefore, we may lay in accordance with our ancient law, and we gladly do so, thereby testifying our obedience to the law and our desire to show publicly the respect for the government under which we live.....

Following prayer, the reading of the list of articles to be placed within the stone and the enclosing of the casket containing the memorials, the stone was dropped into place after Grand Master Ames had spread the first trowelful of mortar.

The square, level and plumb were applied to the stone by the Deputy Grand Master and Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, following which they also poured on the stone the elements of consecration—corn, wine and oil.

The ceremony closed with the presentation of the square, level, and plumb to Architect W.L. Perkins of Chariton by Grand Master Ames, a proclamation that the stone had been properly laid, and benediction. (*Chariton Herald-Patriot*, 2 June 1936)

No information has been located to explain why the anticipated three to four month construction period extended into 1937, but the temple was finally dedicated in late April 1937. The *Chariton Herald Patriot* headlined the front page two weeks in a row (Thursday 22 April and Thursday 29 April 1937) with details about plans for the dedication.

The dedication events were to cover three days, the 28th, 29th, and 30th of April, and would involve dignitaries from around the state. On Wednesday 28 April the public was invited to inspect the \$50,000 building between 10:00 AM and noon. The first dedication observance

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Continuation Sheet**

**Chariton Masonic Temple
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was to take place on that day and was in charge of Chariton Lodge No. 63, A.F. & A.M. Services on 29 April were to be conducted by the Royal Arch Masons and Knights Templar, while the Order of Eastern Star and the White Shrine of Jerusalem were in charge of the final dedication services on 30 April. The first service on Wednesday started at the old Masonic Lodge when the Grand Lodge of Iowa convened. With Dr. Thomas Throckmorton of Des Moines, Grand Master of Masons in Iowa, officiating, the service moved to the new temple "where the ritualistic dedicatory rites were impressively presented. Attendance at the dedication services was confined only to members of the order" but over three hundred Masons from numerous Iowa cities were in attendance. (*Chariton Herald-Patriot*, 29 April 1937) The highlight of the meeting was the address of Attorney Charles E. Miller, a member of the Albia lodge. Miller's speech was given a column of its own on the front page, with many specific quotes.

"The vitality and strength of Masonry in Chariton is not measured by the beauty of this temple," Charles E. Miller, Albia attorney, warned members of the Masonic order in a brilliant address at the services which dedicated the new Masonic temple yesterday afternoon.

"It is measured solely by the fidelity of its members. The men and women, boys and girls, of Chariton know what the individual Mason stands for, even though they know little of what Masonry itself stands for; and the strength and influence of the fraternity depends solely upon the example of its members," he said.

"Masonry has always had for its purpose the protection of human rights and human liberty. Our fraternity has, at various times, been condemned by both church and state in all parts of the world, but those who sought to destroy could not reach the soul of our fraternity."

The Albia attorney praised the contribution Masonry has made toward public education. His words of commendation came after stress had been laid upon the value of free public schools in the ritualistic services.

He praised too, the part Masonry has played in governmental affairs and called upon Masons to meet their civic responsibilities. "When you and I, who are charged with these responsibilities, fail to function, the power goes to someone. We are depending too much upon science and upon political experts to regulate our lives," he said.

Concluding Mr. Miller urges Masons to live true to their fraternal obligations, thereby, "living true to the highest of American ideals and tradition."

A banquet for 300 guests was served at 6:00 PM that evening in the new temple. The dedication events continued for another two days, but those activities did not receive as much newspaper coverage.

The significance of this new temple carried far beyond Chariton and Lucas County. The *Ottumwa Courier*, two counties to the east, provided much of a page to the story, including "Iowa Masons Gather to Dedicate Temple," a four column photograph of "Grand Lodge Enters

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Chariton Temple," and a three column photograph of the officers of Chariton Masonic Lodge No 63. A smaller headline read "Arch Masons and Templars Hold Ceremonies Today; O.E.S. Events Friday."



Participants in Opening Ceremonies
(Courtesy of Chariton Masonic Lodge No. 63)

The 100th Anniversary booklet (1955) listed the eight Masonic Orders that occupied the temple:

Chariton Lodge No 63, A.F. & A.M.
Chariton Chapter No 22, Royal Arch Masons
Chariton Council No 42, Royal and Select Masters
Immanuel Commandery No 50, Knights Templar
Engle Chapter No 34, Order of Eastern Star
Alpha Shrine No 32, White Shrine of Jerusalem
Associate Order of King Pins
The Lucas County Shrine Club

The booklet also noted that M.W. Thomas B. Throckmorton, Past Grand Master, Des Moines, not only dedicated the Temple on 28 April 1936, he also gave the Centennial Address on 29 September 1955. It was with great pride that the booklet included a page with photographs of "Two members of Chariton Lodge No 63, [who] have served the Grand Lodge of Iowa as

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Grand Master. The first was M.W. John N. McClanahan in 1880. The second was our architect, M.W. William L. Perkins, who served from 1944-46."

Conclusion:

The Chariton Masonic Temple No 63, A.F. & A.M. (1937) is unaltered except for repair at the roofline. It is a fine example of Art Deco design, a rarity in a small Midwestern county seat town, that was designed by local architect William L. Perkins. It is significant under Criterion C as it is one of Perkins' last works, and certainly one of his finest, and is of local interest because it illustrates the importance of Masonic organizations in towns across the country, small as well as large. The size and style of the building speak to the importance of the Masons in Chariton and the integrity of this building speaks to the great pride that the Masons have in their stone Temple. The Masonic Temple meets the Registration Requirements established in the Multiple Property Document "The Architectural Career of William L. Perkins in Iowa: 1917-1957."

The preparation of this National Register of Historic Places nomination has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.

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Front page headline.
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GEOGRAPHIC DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description:

Original Town, Lot 7, Block 16

Boundary Justification:

This is the area historically associated with this resource.

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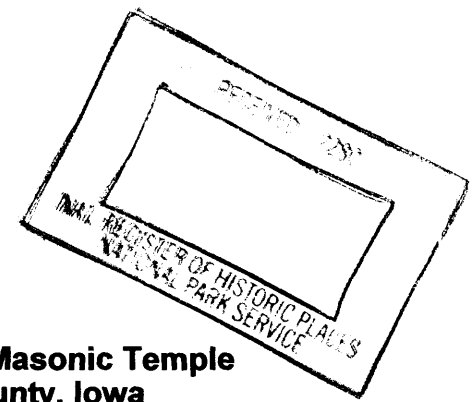
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The photographs submitted with this nomination were taken by Jeri Reeve for the Chariton Historic Preservation Commission in November 2005. The negatives are on file in the Historic Preservation Office of the State Historical Society of Iowa, 600 E. Locust St., Des Moines, IA 50319.

1. Façade and west elevation to NE
2. Façade to NNE
3. Façade to NW
4. East elevation to SW
5. Cornerstone located on east side of NE corner
6. Rear (north) elevation to W
7. West elevation and rear apse to E
8. West elevation to NE
9. Interior: Brass Masonic emblem inset in terrazzo floor at main entrance
10. Interior: Terrazzo stairs & iron railing leading up to main floor
11. Interior: Light fixtures between vertical windows above front entrance
12. Interior: Raised stage at east end of Lodge Room on main (upper) floor
13. Interior: Library in NW corner of main floor
14. Interior: Brass wall grill with Masonic emblem
15. Interior: Brick wall & fireplace in Billiard/Club Room in lower level
16. Interior: Kitchen in lower level

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