

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 4 Page 1

**Masonic Temple
Fairbanks North Star Borough**

ALASKA

OT80004568

REMOVAL APPROVED


Keeper signature

 5/16/18
Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED APR 21 1980

DATE ENTERED

JUN 3 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**HISTORIC

The Masonic Temple of Fairbanks, Alaska (AHR SITE NO. FAI-032)

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

809 1st Avenue

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Alaska At Large

STATE

Alaska

VICINITY OF
CODE

02

COUNTY

North Star Borough

Fairbanks

CODE

090

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Social

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Masonic Temple Holding Company, Mr. George Rayburn, President

STREET & NUMBER

Box 170

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alaska

99701

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

North Star Borough Assessor's Office

STREET & NUMBER

520 Fifth Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks

STATE

Alaska

99701

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

City Historic Building Survey / Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (State)

DATE

1978

Division of Parks, Anchorage

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

619 Warehouse Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks

STATE

Alaska 99701

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Masonic Temple, which has served as a meeting hall for the Tanana "Blue Lodge" 162 since 1908, stands today as a unique example of the Eclectic Renaissance Revival style. The two-story wooden building is located in its original site overlooking the Chena River. A facade made entirely of sheet metal creates the appearance of a massive brick-and-stone structure. The cornice decorated with small brackets and a frieze with garlands tops the facade (see Photograph 1). On the first level are four arched semi-circular windows with quoins on either side. Of the six second-floor openings, five contain rectangular windows. In the third from the right, a single-leaf door provides access to the upper porch. The main door on the first level consists of two sets of double-leaf, seven-panel doors. A wide set of steps descends from the lower porch. Two additional doors in the rear of the building provide emergency exit (see Photograph 2). The low gabled roof is covered with sheet metal. The roof height is 12 meters with a rear portion covering a 1908 addition (as described below) that is 70 cm higher. At the rear center of the old lower roof section, there is a concrete chimney. The building is 14 meters wide and 32 meters long.

The interior rooms consist of a large ballroom, a small meeting room, an office, and other service rooms on the first level, with a main meeting hall, a small conference room, a kitchen, and storage rooms on the second level. The large second-floor meeting hall retains its original design incorporating wall panels outlined and decorated with dark wood trim. A perimeter platform in the first floor ballroom accommodates antique auditorium chairs. Carpets cover the hardwood floors and the stairs.

Built in 1906, the Masonic Temple originally housed the Tanana Commercial Company, Miners and Outfitters. At this time the two-story building had a low gabled roof and horizontal plank siding. In 1908 the Tanana Commercial Company moved next door and the Masons purchased the building (see Photograph 3). The Masons enlarged the building in the back by 20 meters, giving it the overall shape it shows today. Further changes occurred in 1913 when the entire building was raised, providing a seven-foot basement ceiling, and in 1916 when the present facade was constructed (see Photograph 4). The general appearance of the building has not changed appreciably since that time.

Subsequent changes have continued along pragmatic lines. In 1929 the Holding Company replaced the decaying wooden foundation with a concrete foundation. They have also added steel beams beneath the floors on both levels and aluminum siding to both sides and the rear of the building. On the facade, they have removed the two center bays on the lower level, relocated the main door to the center, and built a small entranceway. They have also removed the molded cornice, the decorated frieze, three columns, and an elaborate balustrade on the porch.

Interior changes include gradual modernization of the small upstairs kitchen, reconstruction of walls and ceiling in the upstairs conference room, and periodic repainting. Although in some cases, original interior furnishings have been removed, the large downstairs ballroom and second-floor meeting hall remain generally unaltered.

Eight Hundred Nine First Avenue is just on the fringe of the downtown Fairbanks commercial district. The Masonic Temple Holding Company owns both the lot on which the building stands (Lot 3, Block 17 TWN) and the adjacent lot to the east (Lot 1a2a, Block 17 TWN). A residential area of older Fairbanks homes lies to the west. Until

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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The boundary for the Falcon Joslin house conforms to the dimensions of lot 10B of block 64 of the Fairbanks townsite (see sketch map). This boundary contains the entire area of the original house and yard contemporary with the earliest construction but does not include the more recent greenhouse structure.

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The Masonic Temple, AHR Site No. FAI-032

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7

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1

1959, the house of Fairbanks founder, E. T. Barnette, stood next door (see Photograph 3). From the Temple there is a good view of the Chena River and development to the north.

The Masonic Temple and the lot on which the building stands (Lot 3, Block 17 TWN) are included in the nomination. These boundaries are established to insure protection of the visual qualities of the building. A view of the building front is most important, although a view of the entire structure adds an important visual dimension.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

Built in 1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fairbanks Masonic Temple is significant for the following reasons: it illustrates the architectural style and building techniques of an Alaska boom town; it represents the valuable role in the city's development played by local fraternal organizations; it symbolizes events in the lives of individuals important in this development; and finally, it symbolizes feelings and associations of people in the community. The building's general appearance from the street, its architecture, its integrity of location, and its tradition of use all contribute to its present-day historic value.

The Masonic Temple is significant architecturally because it illustrates specific elements of style and an approach to construction consistent with the pragmatism of a young booming Fairbanks. The Renaissance Revival style, popular during the 1880's and 1890's in the lower 48 states, appeared in Fairbanks as late as 1916. Thus, the "new" face from the 1916 remodeling is as representative of early Fairbanks as the original front it replaced. The absence of stone and brick material in the construction of the facade is most striking. The Masons created the entire effect with sheet metal, painted a light redish-tan color and affixed to an underlying wooden support. Kits for such facades were once available from mail-order catalogues. The facade not only furnishes a low-maintenance exterior but also provides visual affinity with Masonic Temples in the lower 48 states, without the expense of stone and brick construction.

This pragmatic approach has remained an ongoing tradition in later alterations during the Mason's lengthy tenure. Starting with basically a warehouse, the Masons enlarged it, strengthened its foundation and floors, added a more energy-efficient compound front door and low-maintenance aluminum siding, replaced a weakened porch balustrade with a less elaborate metal rail, and displayed reserve on interior remodeling.

The building's integrity of location dates to its original construction. The great fire of 1906 spread west only as far as Barnette Street, one block away. Having survived the fire, the temple joins a small group of historically valuable buildings in the First Avenue area. These include the George Thomas Library (901 1st Av), the Northern Commercial Building (629 1st Av), the Model Cafe (549 1st Av), and the First Avenue Bathhouse/Odd Fellows Hall (825 1st Av). (The value of a First Avenue Historic District warrants further study.)

The Masonic Temple has social and humanitarian significance because the Masons have long played an important role in the development of the Fairbanks community. The fraternal organization has regularly contributed to needy families. They show concern for children who require special medical facilities, and they have maintained a special blood bank at the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. The Masons traditionally keep their contributions anonymous.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY <1

QUADRANGLE NAME Fairbanks D-2 SE, Alaska USGS

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1: 24 000

UTM REFERENCES

A 0,6 4,6,5 6,8,0 7,1,9,1 1,1,5
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James R. Marcotte

April 1979

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Cooperative Park Studies Unit, Anthropology and Historic Preservation

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Gruening Bldg. University of Alaska

907-479-7050

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

William M. ...

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4/15/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. Ray Luce
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/3/80

ATTEST: *Kristal J. O'Connell*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 6/2/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

The Masonic Temple, AHRs Site No. FAI-032

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Although the Tanana Lodge was comprised of all types of Fairbanks citizens, a few of the prominent charter members include: James H. Caskey, newspaper publisher; Andrew Nerland, furniture retailer; and Volney Richmond, president of the Northern Commercial Company. Events in the lives of the Mason members are symbolized by the building. Forbes Baker, who came to Fairbanks in 1905, recalls the important role "lodge life" played through the long Alaskan winters, especially in the absence of today's forms of amusement. The members take great pride in their degree work and have always impressed visiting Grand Masters.

The Masonic establishment in Fairbanks began as a club in 1904 after Edwin H. Van Patten, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge in Washington, received a request for information about organizing a Masonic lodge. Van Patten recommended the formation of a club since he doubted the group's stability in such a remote location. The club members quickly proved their sincerity and were granted a dispensation on February 28, 1907, and full Charter on June 17, 1908. A search for a permanent home for the lodge ended in 1908 when the present temple was acquired with the aid of bonds held by the individual members. In subsequent years additional Masonic Orders were organized. These include the Royal Arch, Commandery of the York Right, and the Scottish Rite. Other related groups to use the building are Job's Daughters, Eastern Star, DeMolay, and the Rainbow Girls.

Finally, the Masonic Temple is historically significant because it symbolizes feelings and associations for people in the community. Certainly for the members of families who have received a helping hand from the Masons, the building holds special importance. Frank Young, one of the Fairbanks Pioneers, is typical of many citizens for which the building is a tangible component of recollections from earlier years. He recalls the address President Harding delivered from the Temple steps in 1923. Because the Masons played an important role in the development of Fairbanks, because both Masons and others in the community have strong feelings associated with the building, and because the building is a fine example of Renaissance Revival style in Alaska, the Masonic Temple is a significant historic site.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

The Masonic Temple, AHRS Site No. FAI-032

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1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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1934 Establishment of Freemasonry in Alaska. M.A. thesis: University of Washington.

Lulu Fairbanks Collection

Archives, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Matheson, Janet

1978 City Historic Building Survey. City of Fairbanks, Alaska.

Tanana "Blue Lodge" # 162.

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Tanana Yukon Historical Society

1977 Ghosts of the Gold Rush.

Underwood, J.W.

April 11, 1979 personal communication.

Young, Frank P.

April 13, 1979 personal communication.

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JUN 3 1980

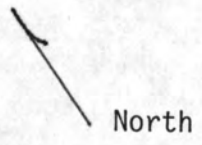
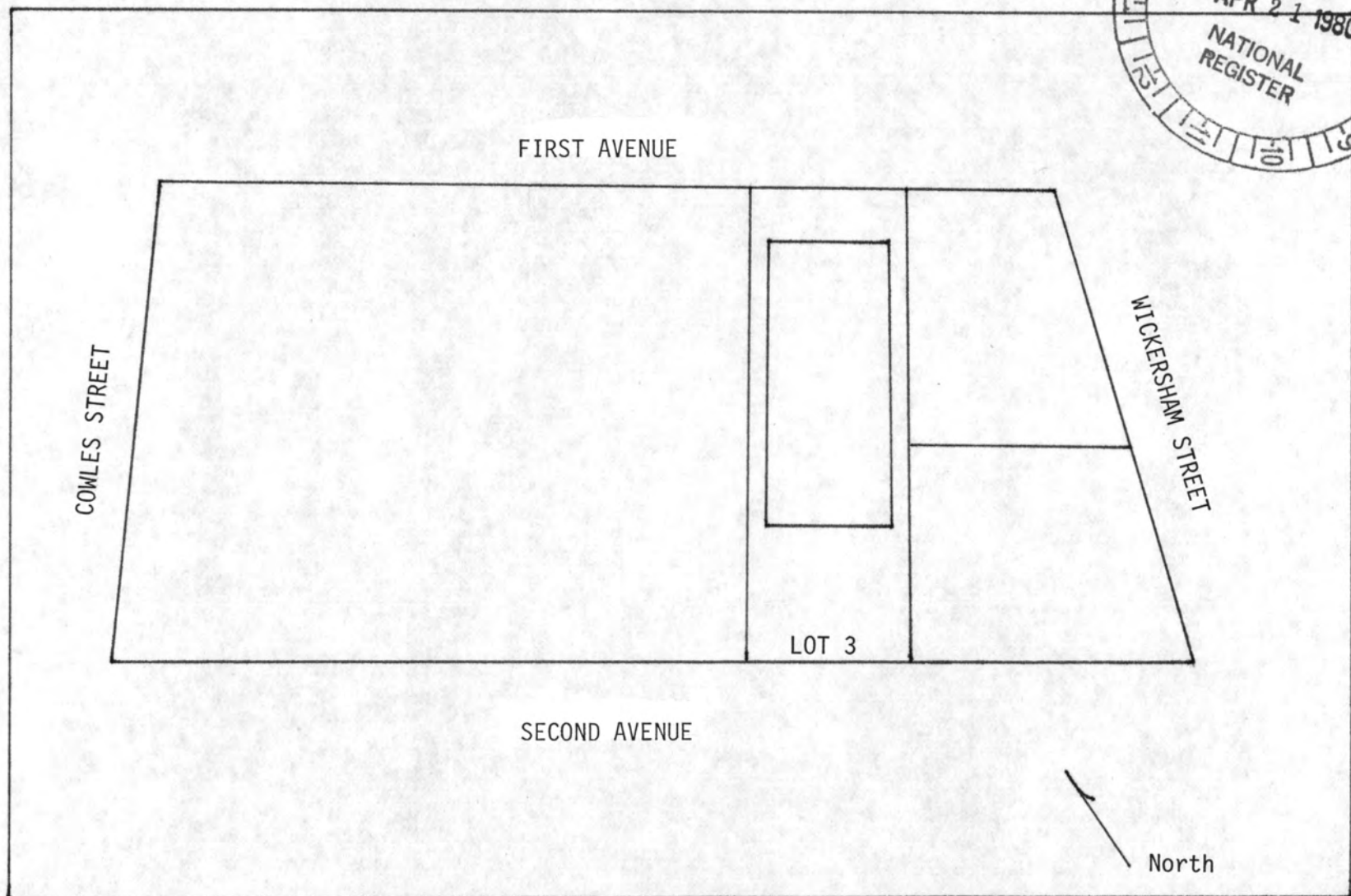
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

The Masonic Temple, AHRS Site No. FAI-032

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

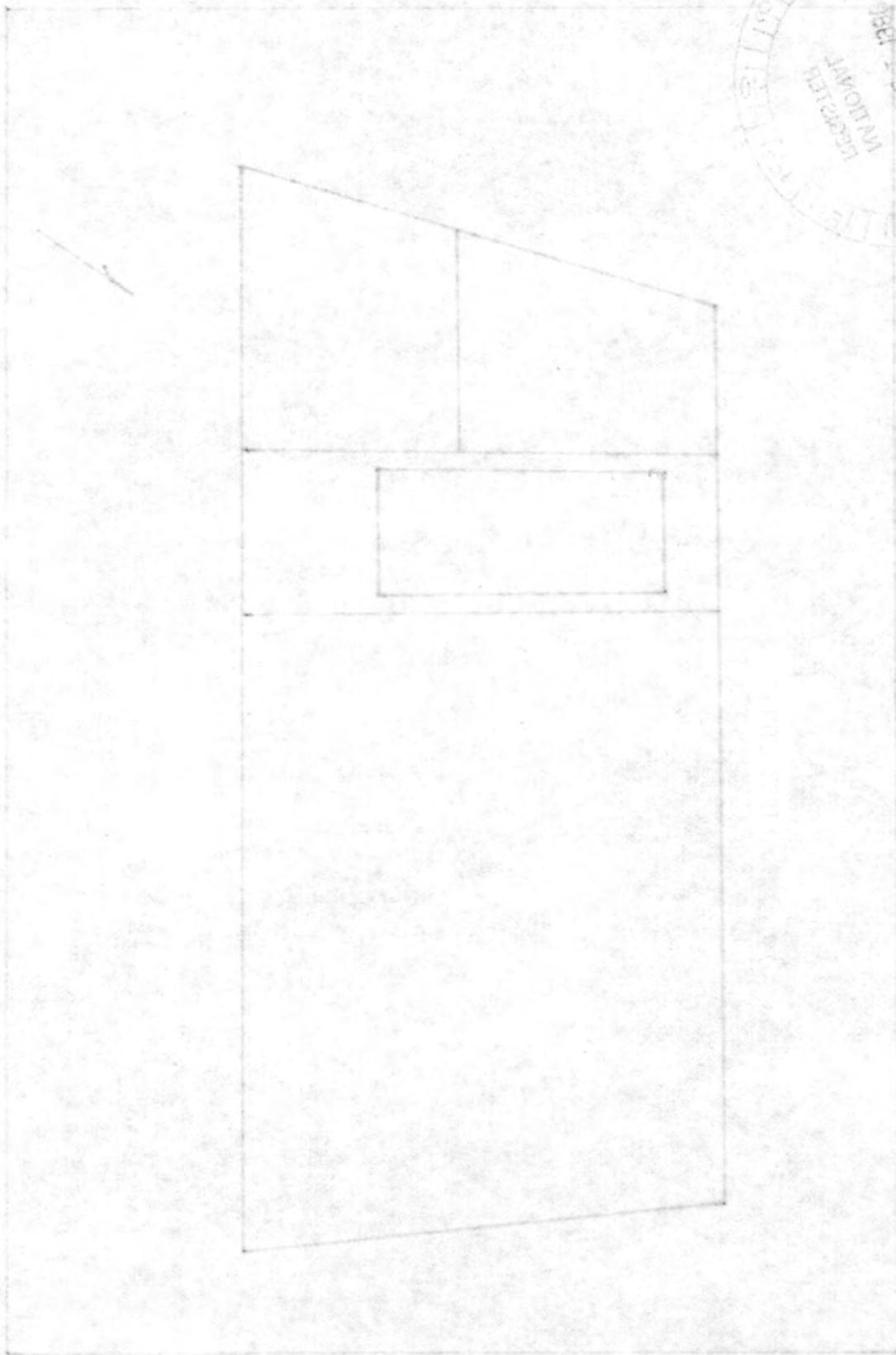
Lot 3, Block 17 TWN, extends from First Avenue a distance of 105.3 feet to Second Avenue (see Map 3). The northeast corner is at a point 49.2 feet from the northeast corner of the block at Wickersham Street and First Avenue. The northwest corner of the lot is 98.2 feet from the block corner, giving the lot a width of 49 feet along the First Avenue border. The southeast corner of the lot is 86.8 feet from the southeast corner of the block at the corner of Wickersham Street and Second Avenue. The southwest corner of the lot is 136.8 feet from the southeast corner of the block giving the following overall dimensions: 105.3x 50 x 105.3 x 49 feet. This property is located in the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 10, T1S, R1W, Fairbanks Meridian.



1"=50'

Map 3. Block 17 TWN, Masonic Temple, Fairbanks, Alaska
UTM Reference: 06/465680/7191115

JUN 3 1980



Masonic Temple
Fairbanks, Alaska
UTM Reference: 06/465680/7191115





JUN 3 1980



1906
MASONIC TEMPLE

EASTER
BREAKFAST

EASTER
BREAKFAST

PHOTOGRAPH 1

JUN 3 1980

THE (MASONIC TEMPLE)
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA
County

UTM REFERENCE: 06/465680/7191115

Photographed by James Marcotte

April 12, 1979

Negative (#16) on file at:

Cooperative Park Studies Unit

Anthropology and Historic Preservation

University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99701

Photograph facing southwest

APR 21 1980



PHOTOGRAPH 2

JUN 3 1980

THE (MASONIC TEMPLE)
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA
County

UTM REFERENCE: 06/465680/7191115

Photographed by James Marcotte

April 12, 1979

Negative (#8) on file at:

Cooperative Park Studies Unit

Anthropology and Historic Preservation

University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99701

Photograph facing north

APR 21 1980



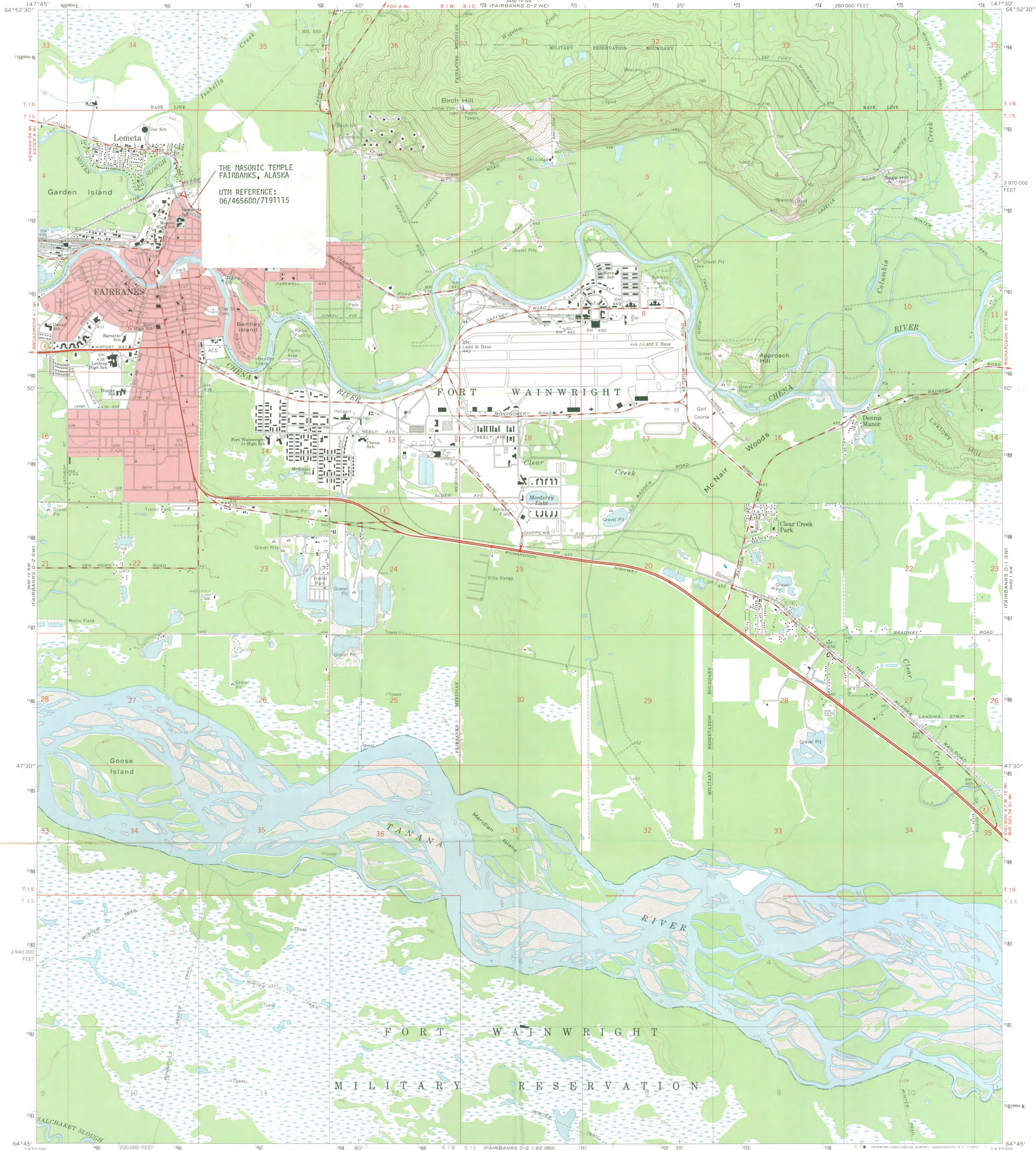
2455

Masonic Temple, 1906
813 First Ave.
Fairbanks, Alaska

43

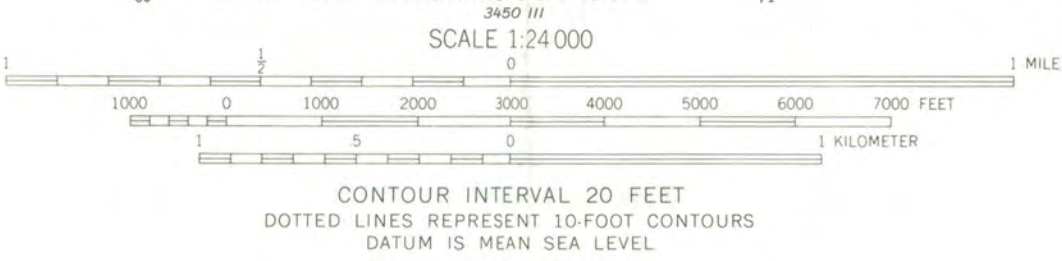
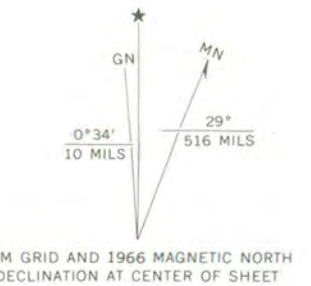
By C.W. Swell

N.P.S. Photo, 196



THE MASONIC TEMPLE
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA
UTM REFERENCE:
06/465680/7191115

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1966
Universal Transverse Mercator projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Alaska coordinate system, zone 3
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 6, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Gray land lines represent unsurveyed and unmarked
locations predetermined by the Bureau of Land Management
Folios F-6, F-7, F-9, and F-10, Fairbanks Meridian
Swamps, as portrayed, indicate only the wetter areas,
usually of low relief, as interpreted from aerial photographs



RECEIVED
APR 21 1980
NATIONAL REGISTER

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Light-duty
Unimproved dirt
Slate Route

FAIRBANKS D-2 SE, ALASKA
N6445—W14730/ 7.5 X 15
1966
AMS 3450 IV SE—SERIES Q801

JUN 3 1980

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

Property Masonic Temple (AHS Site No. FA-032)

8000458

State ak - Fairbanks Div. Working Number 4-21-80 1189

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 2
Maps 3

HISTORIAN

Historically the temple has been supported by prominent citizens, provided numerous social services, and has served the community as a social + recreational center. Architecturally it demonstrates the early 20th-century boomtown's pragmatic approach to style and form: built as a frame commercial warehouse in 1906, the building was sold to Masons in 1908. Remodelling during the next 10 years included addition and an applied cast-iron facade that in Renaissance Revival style, that continues to distinguish the building today and associates building's function with the fraternal order elsewhere in U.S. Technically competent nomination. Accept L.J. Fluit 5/30/80

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

Concur w/above comments **REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**
O'Connell 6/2/80 ~~O'Connell~~

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered JUN 3 1980
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81 Re-submit _____



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, FAIRBANKS
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Anthropology and Historic Preservation
Cooperative Park Studies Unit

November 16, 1979

Mr. William Hanable
State Historic Preservation Officer
Alaska Division of Parks
619 Warehouse Drive, Suite 210
Anchorage, Alaska 99501



Dear Bill:

Enclosed are the National Register forms for four historic buildings in Fairbanks: the Mary Lee Davis House, the Falcon Joslin House, the Odd Fellows Hall, and the Masonic Temple.

We have sent copies of the nomination form to the owner or owners of each building, along with a letter describing the National Register Process and a copy of a pamphlet outlining the Grants-in-Aid project.

Sincerely,

Wendy

Wendy H. Arundale
Project Leader 14(h)(1)

WHA/sk/enc.

Division of Parks

NOV 26 1979



December 11, 1979

Re: 3330-1 (The Masonic Temple)

Mr. George Rayburn, President
Masonic Temple Holding Company
Box 170
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Rayburn:

The Masonic Temple will be considered by the State Historic Sites Advisory Committee for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the Federal Government's official list of historic buildings and other cultural resources worthy of preservation. Enclosed is a copy of the criteria under which properties are evaluated.

Listing in the National Register makes private property owners eligible to be considered for Federal grants-in-aid for historic preservation and provides limited protection through comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on the effect of federally financed, assisted, or licensed undertakings on historic properties.

If your property is depreciable and is listed in the National Register, there are also certain provisions of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 that may apply. Section 2124 of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 encourages preservation of historic depreciable structures by allowing favorable tax treatments for rehabilitations. In addition, it discourages destruction of historic buildings by eliminating certain otherwise available Federal Tax benefits both for demolition of historic structures and for new construction on the site of demolished historic buildings.

If the property contains coal resources and is listed in the National Register, certain provisions of the Surface Mining and Control Act of 1977 make it less likely that surface mining of the coal will be permitted by the State or Federal Government.

If you wish to comment on whether the property should be nominated to the National Register, send your comments within 30 days of the date of this letter to me, William S. Hanable, State Historic Preservation Officer, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks, 619 Warehouse Drive, Suite 210, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501. Comments must be received before the State

Mr. George Rayburn
Masonic Temple
December 11, 1979
Page 2

Historic Sites Advisory Committee considers this property on January 14-15, 1980.
A copy of the nomination is attached for your review.

Sincerely,

William S. Hanable
William S. Hanable
State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosure

WSH:st





December 28, 1979

Re: 3330-1 (Masonic Temple)

Masonic Temple Holding Company
Mr. George Rayburn, President
Box 170
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Rayburn:

As indicated in previous correspondence, the State Historic Sites Advisory Committee will meet soon to consider nomination of the referenced property to the National Register of Historic Places. The Committee will compare the written physical description and statement of significance for the property with criteria of eligibility for the National Register as established by the Keeper of the National Register.

A tentative agenda for the meeting at which the committee will make its review and decision regarding this property is enclosed. Time, place, and approximate schedule of the meeting are indicated.

You do not have to be at the meeting. Should you wish to attend, and speak on the significance of the nomination however, you will be welcomed. Please write or call (274-4676) if we can provide more information.

Sincerely,

William S. Hanable
State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosure

WSH:st

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

JAY S. HAMMOND, Governor

POUCH AD
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
PHONE: 465-3512

January 15, 1980

Mr. William S. Hanable, Chief
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks
323 East Fourth Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Subject: MASONIC TEMPLE HISTORICAL NOMINATION
ZSN030-79120701



Dear Mr. Hanable:

The State Clearinghouse has completed review of the subject proposal. The following comments was received from the Fairbanks North Star Borough:

"The Planning Department of the Fairbanks North Star Borough has no objection to the approval of the nomination. The Masonic Temple is located within the Business III zoning district which is for the Fairbanks core business district.

"The Planning Department recognizes the importance to Fairbanks of retaining historical buildings in recognition of Fairbanks' unique history.

"The Masonic Temple is listed in Fairbanks A City Historical Building Survey. This survey was authorized by the City of Fairbanks and funded through their 1976-77 Community Block Grant."

The Clearinghouse has no objection to finding this proposal. This letter satisfies the review requirements of OMB Circular A-95.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jerry L. Madden".

Jerry L. Madden
State-Federal Coordinator

cc: Philip R. Berrian, DNSB

HISTORIC SITES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 VOTING RECORD Juneau, January 15, 1980



Move The Masonic Temple, AHRS Site No. FAI-032, be nominated to
 the National Register of Historic Places.

(Moved by Anne Shinkwin)

Motion Seconded by: Renee Blahuta

Motion to amend (if any) _____

Motion to amend (if any) seconded by: _____

Vote on motion:

IN FAVOR	ABSTAIN	OPPOSES	RESULT
Blahuta	_____	_____	Passed <u>6-0*</u>
Crittenden	_____	_____	Rejected _____
Shinkwin	_____	_____	Tabled _____
Engen	_____	_____	
Johnson	_____	_____	
D'Arcy	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	

*Passed unanimously.



January 22, 1980

Re: 3330-2 (The Masonic Temple, Fairbanks)

Mr. George Rayburn, President
Masonic Temple Holding Company
Box 170
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Rayburn:

As indicated in our previous letter to you, the referenced property was presented to Alaska's Historic Sites Advisory Committee for determination of eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Committee determined the property to be eligible for nomination.

The package will now be forwarded to the Division of the National Register, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, for further review. If approved at that level, it will be listed in the National Register.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please write or call if we can provide more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William S. Hanable".

William S. Hanable,
State Historic Preservation Officer

WSH:st

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MATERIAL
Transmittal Inventory, National Register



April 14, 1980

(Date)

TO: Keeper of the National Register
440 G Street, N.W.
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C., 20243

1. Form 10-300, National Register Nomination AHRS SITE No. FAI-032, The Masonic Temple, Fairbanks
2. Photographs of Property: 1. Hall facing southwest. 2. Facing north.
3. Property Maps, Drawings: U.S.G.S. Quad Fairbanks (D-2) SE Quad, 1:24 000 Series,
2. Street map showing Temple location. 3. Block 17 TWN.
4. Voting Record, State Historic Sites Advisory Committee. Date: January 15, 1980
Passed unanimously, 6-0.
5. Other Enclosures: Clearinghouse, letter to G. Rayburn from SHPO, letter to SHPO from W. Arundale. Letter from SHPO advising of time of meeting. Letter from SHPO advising of State Historic Sites Committee approval of nomination.

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF PARKS, Office of History & Archaeology
619 Warehouse Drive, Suite 210
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ALASKA

Date Entered JUN 3 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Masonic Temple	Fairbanks Fairbanks Division
Oddfellows Hall (First Avenue Bathhouse)	Fairbanks Fairbanks Division

Also Notified

Honorable Mike Gravel
Honorable Don Young
Honorable Ted Stevens

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. William S. Hanable
Chief of History and Archeology
Division of Parks
Department of Natural Resources
619 Warehouse Avenue, Suite 210
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

NR

Byers/mjd 6/11/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Removal

Property Name: Masonic Temple

Multiple Name:

State & County: ALASKA, Fairbanks North Star

Date Received: 7/2/2018 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: 8/9/2018 Date of 45th Day: 8/16/2018 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: OT80004568

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 8/16/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The National Park Service recommends removal from the National Register of Historic Places. The property has lost those characteristics for which it was originally listed by virtue of its complete demolition in 2018. No historic resources remain, as verified by the SHPO.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Remove from National Register

Reviewer: Paul Lusignan  Discipline: Historian

Telephone: (202)354-2229 Date: 08/16/2018

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION
Office of History & Archaeology

0780005464

550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565
907.269.8721
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha>

June 18, 2018

Re: 3330-3 Masonic Temple (NRIS 80004568)

Joy Beasley, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1849 C St NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Ms. Beasley:

The Masonic Temple in Fairbanks, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 3, 1980, was torn down in March. I am enclosing several articles from the *Fairbanks Daily-News Miner* about the loss. This letter is to request that you remove the property from the National Register. The building was nominated for exploration/settlement as one of the first permanent buildings in the gold rush supply town, for its architecture with its false front, and for social history with its association with the Masons, a fraternal organization which hosted President Warren G. Harding there in 1923. The lot without the building does not exhibit these qualities.

I have written to the owner of the property and the city and borough governments regarding the pending action and providing them with the opportunity to comment. A copy of the letter is also enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at the address above or jo.antonson@alaska.gov or phone 907.269.8714.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan M. Antonson".

Joan M. Antonson
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Attachments: newspaper articles (3), letter to owner and local government officials

Cc: Fairbanks Historic Preservation Commission, Melissa Kellner, mkellner@fnsb.ur

Masonic Temple demolition

Mar 17, 2018



The last remnants of Fairbanks' historic Masonic Temple remained Saturday night. The temple's roof caved in Saturday afternoon, prompting the city to tear down the 112-year-old structure. Crews managed to save the "1906" and "Masonic Temple" signs from the facade.

Buy Now

Robin Wood/News-Miner

As featured on



Historic Masonic Temple total loss after roof caves in

FAIRBANKS — After standing for 112 years — surviving fire, floods, earthquakes and snowloads...



Fairbanks' historic Masonic Temple

Built in 1906, the Fairbanks Masonic Temple collapsed under a heavy snow load on March 17, 2...

http://www.newsminer.com/news/local_news/fairbanks-mayor-defends-decision-to-demolish-masonic-temple/article_cd2d92b8-2b45-11e8-904f-8f16838c9c2b.html

FEATURED

Fairbanks mayor defends decision to demolish Masonic Temple

By Amanda Bohman abohman@newsminer.com Mar 19, 2018



The Masonic Temple, 809 First Ave., across from the Chena River, was built in 1906 as the Tanana Commercial Company Store before the Masonic Lodge purchased the building two years later and made improvements. The most recent owner is businessman Harold Groetsema. The roof caved in on Saturday, March 17, 2018. Amanda Bohman/News-Miner

FAIRBANKS — Preservationists expressed grief Sunday at the loss of the Masonic Temple, a prominent building on First Avenue that had been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The city mayor defended the decision to tear it down in a video posted on social media.

A heavy snowload caused a portion the 112-year-old temple's roof to cave in Saturday. City officials deemed it a public safety hazard. Heavy equipment was brought in, and, 10 hours later, the building known for its Renaissance Revival-style facade and for having been the site of a presidential speech, not to mention meetings and social dances, was reduced to a pile of rubble.

"A part of the history of Fairbanks has died," said Martin Gutoski, a member of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Commission on Historic Preservation.

"I am still upset and angry," fellow preservationist Patty Peirsol said. "We have spent years tearing down most of our old buildings. There are very few left."

Peirsol, an architect, lobbied officials Saturday to slow down and explore ways to preserve the front of the structure, she said.

City Mayor Jim Matherly commented on the quick demolition in a video posted Sunday on social media, saying he understands hard feelings about losing a piece of Fairbanks history, but the building was unsound and the city had an emergency on its hands not unlike a fire.

The temple, 809 First Ave., across from the Chena River, was built in 1906 as the Tanana Commercial Company Store before the Masonic Lodge purchased the building two years later and made improvements. The most recent owner is businessman Harold Groetsema.

Matherly said the city was obligated to tear down the back part of the building, which was collapsing. The project was turned over to Groetsema after the immediate hazard was dealt with, he said.

"The owner made the decision to take the front part down," Matherly said.

He said Groetsema, who is insured, will be billed for the demolition.

"We just had to start the actual work," Matherly said.

The mayor said he is glad that no one was hurt, and he 100 percent trusts the judgment of city officials, who assessed the building after the back roof collapsed.

Groetsema had wanted to turn the temple, which was unoccupied and being used for storage, into a banquet hall but lacked the funds to fix structural problems from the foundation to the roof.

"It is a building that should have been saved, but the owner obviously could not afford the cost of repairing it," said Janet Matheson, a historic architect familiar with the temple. "It's sad to see these buildings go. ... I hope other people with old buildings will take a good look at their roof structure."

Matheson said she had been inside the Masonic Temple multiple times since the 1970s and "it was not engineered properly."

Gutoski said the temple is featured in many historic photographs of Fairbanks. The building also was featured in "First Avenue Fairbanks: Saving Our Places," a 16-minute film about Fairbanks' origins.

"The Masonic Temple has been in all of the old photographs every time you see a shot from where the borough building is or where the Catholic church is," Gutoski said.

Preservationist Molly Proue said the Masonic Temple was one of the more popular of the 200-or-so structures on the local historic building inventory.

"I feel like, out of all of the buildings, people seemed to really like that one. I think because of its distinctive architecture and its place on the river," Proue said.

LaJuana Williams, also on the historic preservation commission, said she drove past the demolition site Sunday morning.

"It was shocking. I'll put it that way," she said. "Any building that we lose, of course, we take very seriously."

Contact staff writer Amanda Bohman at 459-7587. Follow her on Twitter: @FDNMborough.

Antonson, Joan (DNR)

From: Ronald Inouye <rinouye@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 7:29 AM
To: Antonson, Joan (DNR)
Subject: Letter regarding Masonic Temple...

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3/21/18

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In memory of our old friend, the Masonic Temple

March 20
To the editor: We mourn with Fairbanks over the loss of our neighbor, the historic Fairbanks Masonic Temple. Having had her majestically guarding over the east side of our little church building (the Christian Science Church) for almost 60 years, she will be sorely missed.

We feel a kinship with the historic landmark. Our church's Fairbanks history begins in the early 1900s with services beginning in 1906, the same year the Masonic Temple was built on First Avenue. Our current building was moved to the adjacent lot in 1959. As a church community, we have worked alongside her, held church services next to her — and even Sunday School inside her, when we were remodel-

ing, gone for Sunday School walks around her, watched parades from her steps, picked weeds from her base and cleaned around her perimeter as we have cared for our own edifice. Fairbanks is our home, our foundation, and all of it is a part of ours and everyone's story.

When the temple roof collapsed, a large segment of the west wall overhung our Sunday School until the amazing, skilled excavator operators from Exclusive Paving gracefully did their job. The crews from the city of Fairbanks with engineer Bob Pristash, Fairbanks Fire Department and land owner Harold Groetsema, as well as Exclusive Paving, were literally a god-send of care, knowledge and professionalism.

They responded with prompt action to save our building from possible harm. It was obvious to all present during the unfortunate demolition of the Masonic Temple that the utmost care and respect was given to safe-guard our church building from damage and to save certain historic elements of the temple that were gently set aside for the Historical Society. For that, we are humbled and extremely grateful. Everyone involved handled their work graciously, and Big Daddy's BBQ was generous in feeding the workers. Thank you also to the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner for timely and accurate information and updates.
Susan Smith and Karolyn Leslie
FAIRBANKS

Sent from my iPhone



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION
Office of History & Archaeology

550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565
907.269.8721
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha>

June 18, 2018

COPY

Re: 3330-3 Masonic Temple, Fairbanks

Karl Kassel, Mayor
Fairbanks North Star Borough
P.O. Box 71267
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

Jim Matherly, Mayor
City of Fairbanks
800 Cushman St.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Harold Groetsema
HTC Corporation
2595 Twin Lakes Dr.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Dear Mayor Kassel, Mayor Matherly, Mr. Groetsema:

I was very sorry to learn the Masonic Temple at 809 First Avenue was torn down in March.

The building has ceased to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places because the qualities which caused it to be listed have been destroyed. This letter is to advise you that in accord with the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR 60.15, I have written to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places asking that the property be removed from the list.

If you wish to comment on this proposed action, your notarized comments must be submitted to me within fifteen days of receipt of this letter. I will forward any comments received to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions regarding this proposed action, please write to me at the address above, at jo.antonson@alaska.gov, or call 907.269.8714.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Joan M. Antonson in blue ink.

Joan M. Antonson
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Fairbanks Historic Preservation Commission, Melissa Kellner, mkellner@fnsb.us