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NOV 25 2003

NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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, work processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sioux City Masonic Temple

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 820 Nebraska Street N/A not for publication

city or town Sioux City N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Woodbury code 106 zip code 51101

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.)

Rowell J. Soille December 2, 2003

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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 1/14/04

Sioux City Masonic Temple
Name of Property

Woodbury, 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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

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)

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/
Mixed /Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls BRICK
roof TILE
other ASPHALT; TERRA COTTA

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark an "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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1922-1952

Significant Dates

1922

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Buettler & Arnold

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic 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 _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Sioux City Masonic Temple
Name of Property

Woodbury, IA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 14 E 713540 N 4708300

3 _____

2 _____

4 _____

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 Marcy Stenwall
organization _____ date 2/9/01
street & number 52 McDonald Street telephone 712/258-5456
city or town Sioux City state IA zip code 51104

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Sioux City Masonic Building Company
street & number 822 Nebraska Street telephone _____
city or town Sioux City state Iowa zip code 51101

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.

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Sioux City Masonic Temple
Woodbury County, IA

Narrative Description

Completed in 1922, the Sioux City Masonic Temple occupies an entire quarter block on a steep hill at the southeast corner of the intersection of 9th and Nebraska Streets overlooking downtown Sioux City. The Sioux City Masonic Temple is a tall 2 ½ to 3 story tall, concrete and steel frame building faced with tan brick and terra cotta of Spanish Colonial Revival design.

Exterior

The Masonic building fronts onto both Nebraska Street and 9th Street and measures approximately 150 feet by 150 feet. Due to the hilly nature of the site, the building is 2 ½ stories on the east façade and 3 stories on the west façade. Both street façades are very different in design (see Additional Documentation). The Nebraska Street façade features seven bays with a decorative entrance located in the center, or the fourth, bay. This entrance features a double wooden door with glass inset panels and a two story tall terra cotta decorative surround. The doors are flanked by two sets of engaged terra cotta columns both of which rise to a second floor balcony. A pair of French doors, each with 12 lights, provide access to the balcony which is flanked by a pair of engaged, fluted Doric columns. Inset within the entablature and directly above the French doors is "1921", the date of building construction. Above the entablature is a broken pediment. Set within the pediment is a pair of 8-pane casement windows, flanked by a double set of terra cotta brinks and capped by a segmental arched pediment. The windows on each of the floors of the west façade are unique in style. The ground floor, or walkout basement, features paired multi-light casement windows with multi-light transoms. The main floor windows are set within a terra cotta decorative surround that includes a decorative terra cotta base and a ½ round cap with keystone. The window is a multi-pane double hung window with a ½ round upper sash. The entire window, including the ½ round cap, is flanked by multi-pane side lights. The third floor windows are stacked upper and lower multi-pane casements and are flanked by a double column of terra cotta banding which rises to a finial above the upper set of windows. The lower and upper sets of windows are multi-paned casements and are separated by a terra cotta panel. Above the upper set of casements is a terra cotta fanlight.

Each of the floors on the west façade are separated by terra cotta banding. The banding above the third floor windows and the banding about the ground level wrap around to the north and partially to the south and east façades.

The north façade is very different in character and detailing from the west façade. Here the main entrance is through a one and one-half story tall triple arched colonnade. Set within each arch is a solid wood double door, each flanked by stylized terra cotta, painted and gilded edged columns. Above each door is a sign panel and above that a Gothic styled wrought iron

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Sioux City Masonic Temple
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railing and a pair of narrow, arched multi paned windows. The entire door surround features decorative symbols executed in terra cotta. Completing the decorative door surround is a large section of terra cotta "quilting" and is located above the arched windows. Flanking the triple arched entrance are a pair of four-story tall towers. Centered in each of the towers and located at each floor level is a single double hung window with terra cotta sill. Above the third floor terra cotta banding, and within each tower is a pair of arched windows surrounded by terra cotta. Above the terra cotta roof cap, running the perimeter of each tower, is a decorative terra cotta colonnade which is capped by a pyramidal shaped red clay tile roof with copper gutter and decorative terra cotta brackets.

The east façade is the least visible of all elevations. This façade features simple, rectangular three over three double hung windows with terra cotta sills. The decorative terra cotta cornice from the north elevation wraps approximately 24 feet onto this façade.

The south façade is by far the least decorative of the four. The most notable feature is a tall, four story tall tower, that functions as the fly wall of the interior theater. A metal fire escape stair is adjacent to the fly wall and, next to that is a tall chimney stack. Terra cotta banding from the west façade wraps around to this south wall for the first 20 feet. Only a few small, multi-pane windows punctuate the south façade.

Interior

The interior detailing is best described by the Sioux City Journal written shortly before its December 9, 1922, opening dedication:

"Mere words cannot describe the beauties of the interior of the temple which must be seen to really be appreciated. In arrangement and for convenience there is probably no Masonic temple in the country that offers more modern facilities than does the Sioux City temple. No expense has been spared in making the temple not only beautiful, but modernly convenient.

The principal entrance to the building is located on Nebraska street leads to spacious lobby from which access is had to the various rooms on this floor and to the main stairway elevator leading to the rooms above. The important feature of the ground floor is the large banquet room, having a banquet capacity of 850 persons... The room is equipped with a stage and the floor space is so arranged that large dancing parties easily may be accommodated.

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Sioux City Masonic Temple
Woodbury County, IA

A smaller banquet room for less elaborate festivals also is included on the ground floor. This banquet room has a seating capacity of 250 persons. With large windows opening on Nebraska street and also on the court on the south this room is very attractive.”

When the need arises both rooms can be joined to accommodate large groups. Other rooms on this floor include a game room located in the northwest corner of the building. Coat rooms, rest rooms, janitor’s headquarters and mechanical rooms complete the ground level floor plan. The first floor of the building houses the Shrine auditorium. The December 3, 1992, edition of the Sioux City Journal describes the first floor:

“Beginning at the entrance on the Ninth street, the Shrine hall has been constructed in the Moorish design of architecture. The lobby and entrance vestibule have floors and wainscoting of mosaic tiles and the treatment is emphasized in the ornamental plastering and decoration.

The Shrine hall is surrounded by a concourse or circulation space, and from this entrance is available to the Shrine hall proper. The amphitheater, with a seating capacity of 1,200 fixed seats and an additional seating capacity of 500 in the [enclosed] arena, leads to a modernly designed and constructed stage with all the conveniences and equipment that are to be found in the best playhouses. The stage, which is located in the south end of the hall, is of sufficient size and height to accommodate the largest stage equipment. Dressing and property rooms are arranged on either side of the stage in advantageous locations...”

The auditorium is designed in the Moorish style with triple arched entry doors, decorative plaster mouldings, decorative gilding and colorful paint schemes, and its original lighting fixtures.

A large lounge, located on the southwest side of the first floor, features large windows with a half round transom, a fireplace on the south wall, tall Corinthian columns and egg and dart mouldings. Other rooms on this floor include Lodge Hall number 1 which is located in the northwest corner and is decorated in an Egyptian motif complete with pilasters with lotus bud capitals, a painted frieze of Egyptian characters, and a hazy-blue ceiling with a painted galaxy of gilded stars. Men’s and ladies coat rooms, a lounge room, a ladies parlor, toilet rooms, storage rooms and offices complete the rooms on the first floor.

From the first floor one can gain access to the mezzanine via the main staircase which is located on either end of the front lobby on the building’s north side. On this floor is located a lounge area that overlooks the first floor lounging room, restrooms, offices and locker space.

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Sioux City Masonic Temple
Woodbury County, IA

The second floor houses Lodge Hall number 2 and 3, preparation rooms, property rooms, a locker room and an armory. Lodge Hall number 2 is executed in the Doric style and Lodge hall number 3 is executed in the Italian Renaissance style. Adjoining hall number 3 is an armory with a capacity of 25 lockers.

Above the second floor, and located on the south side of the floor, is a large room that contains a Shrine museum. The north half of the floor is currently vacant.

Alterations

The exterior of the Sioux City Masonic Temple remains as it was when first opened in 1922. In 1998 sections of the building's interior underwent restoration. Removed were dropped ceilings, carpeting, and boarded-up windows. Additionally, some plaster detailing has been lost to water damage. However, the majority of the building's interior remains unaltered.

Statement of Significance

The Sioux City Masonic Temple is locally significant under Criterion C for the National Register of Historic Places as an excellent, unaltered example of the Spanish Colonial Revival architectural design. Only one other downtown commercial building is executed in this style, that being the Sioux City Free Public Library (NRHP) located at 7th and Jackson Streets, two blocks south of the Masonic Temple. The building was designed in 1921 by well-known Sioux City architectural firm of Beuttler and Arnold and cost nearly \$300,000 to complete and included nearly \$200,000 worth of custom-designed furnishings.

Spanish Colonial Revival was popular from 1915 to approximately 1940. Unique features of this style include ornate carvings which highlight arches, columns, window surrounds and cornices all evident on the Sioux City Masonic Temple. Also prevalent in facades of large Spanish Colonial Revival buildings are decorated parapets, and symbolic bell towers also evident on this structure. With the exception of a few minor points, the Sioux City Masonic Temple exemplifies the Spanish Colonial Revival design. It has an arcaded front entrance on the north façade; an entrance on the west façade that is flanked by classical, fluted Doric pilasters; arches over the main floor windows; ceramic tile used on the tower roofs, and a symmetrically designed west elevation. Points of departure from the Spanish Colonial Revival design include: decorative features such as the Moorish arches in the entrance doors on the north and west elevations and Masonic symbols incorporated into the north elevation.

The design and detailing of the interior of the Sioux City Masonic Temple is closely tied to the history of the worldwide Masonic organization. Masons, also known as Freemasons, are a

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Sioux City Masonic Temple
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voluntary organization of men evolving from builders guilds in 16th century England and Scotland. Using building tools as symbols to teach basic moral truths, the chief aim of the Freemason was to create a universal fraternal association of people of goodwill—emphasizing the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of mankind. In the 1700s Freemasonry began to spread to all corners of the world growing with the expansion of Great Britain's colonial empire. The first known American lodge was formed in Boston in 1730. As American pushed its borders westward, Masonic organizations were established in small frontier towns across the Great Plains and Prairie states. The earliest recorded meeting of Masons in Sioux City was March 25, 1857, two years after the platting of the small town. This group held its meeting in a log building on Pearl Street near the corner of Third Street. From this meeting, the group formed the city's first lodge, officially Lodge #3 but more commonly known as the Landmark Lodge.

One of the most common symbols used throughout the building includes the builder's square and compass. According to Masonic literature, the square symbolizes virtue and the compass symbolizes the importance of keeping passions within bounds. The square and compass symbol is found throughout the building including on the brass door knobs. The three lodge rooms are designed in Egyptian and Roman influenced motifs, and the large auditorium executed in a Moorish design.

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Sioux City Masonic Temple
Woodbury County, IA

Bibliography

Blumenson, John J. G., Identifying American Architecture, W. W. Norton & Company, 1981
Buettler and Arnold. Blueprints. Masonic Temple Building. Sioux City, Iowa. Blueprints are in the possession of the Sioux City Masonic Lodge, 822 Nebraska Street.
Clark, Will Leach ed. History of Woodbury and Plymouth Counties, Iowa. P. 201.
Sioux City Chamber of Commerce. Sioux City Spirit of Progress. 1922. P. 360.
Sioux City Journal. December 3, 1922; December 6, 1922, December 7, 1922; October 15, 1998.
Sioux City Masons. Various Literature. 822 Nebraska Street, Sioux City, Iowa.

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Sioux City Masonic Temple include:
Lot 1-3 and the north 8 feet of the alley south of lot 3, Block 43 Sioux City East Addition and more commonly known as 822 Nebraska Street, Sioux City, Iowa.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the Masonic Temple and all of the land that historically has been associated with the Sioux City Masonic Temple.

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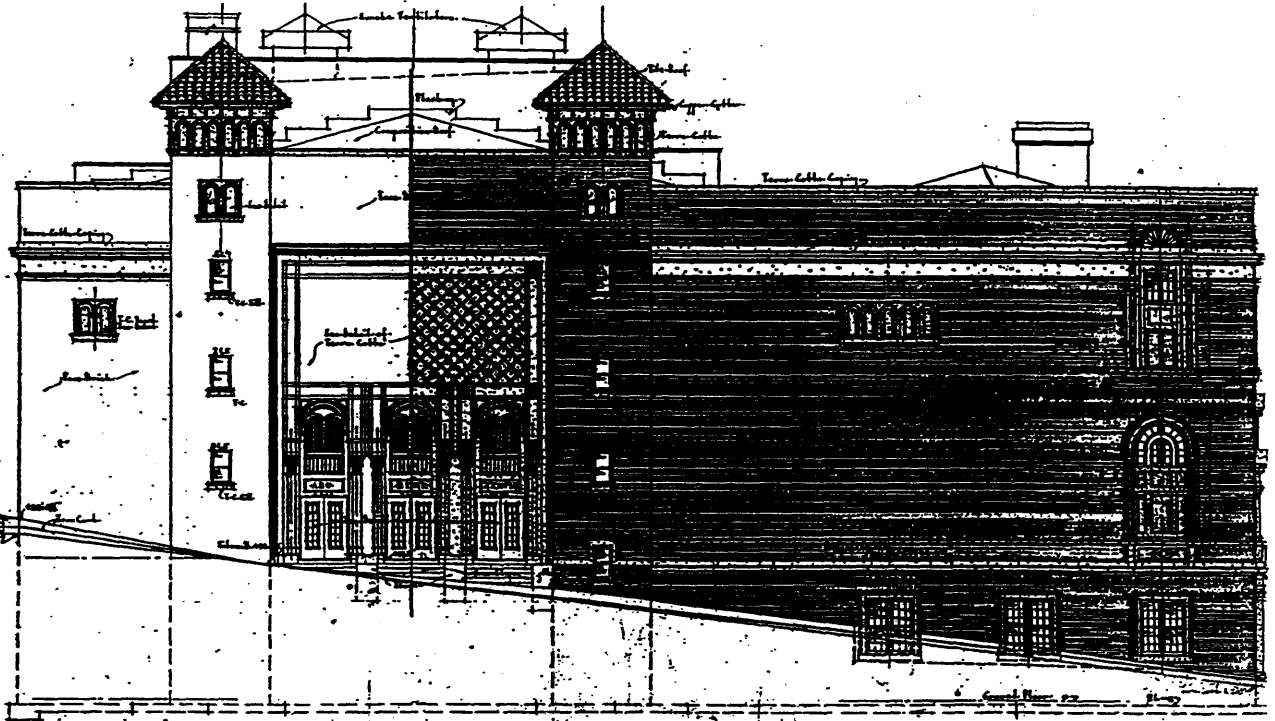
Additional
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Masonic Temple
Woodbury County, IA

North Elevation

Source: Original Blueprints---Temple office

Date: 1921



NORTH ELEVATION

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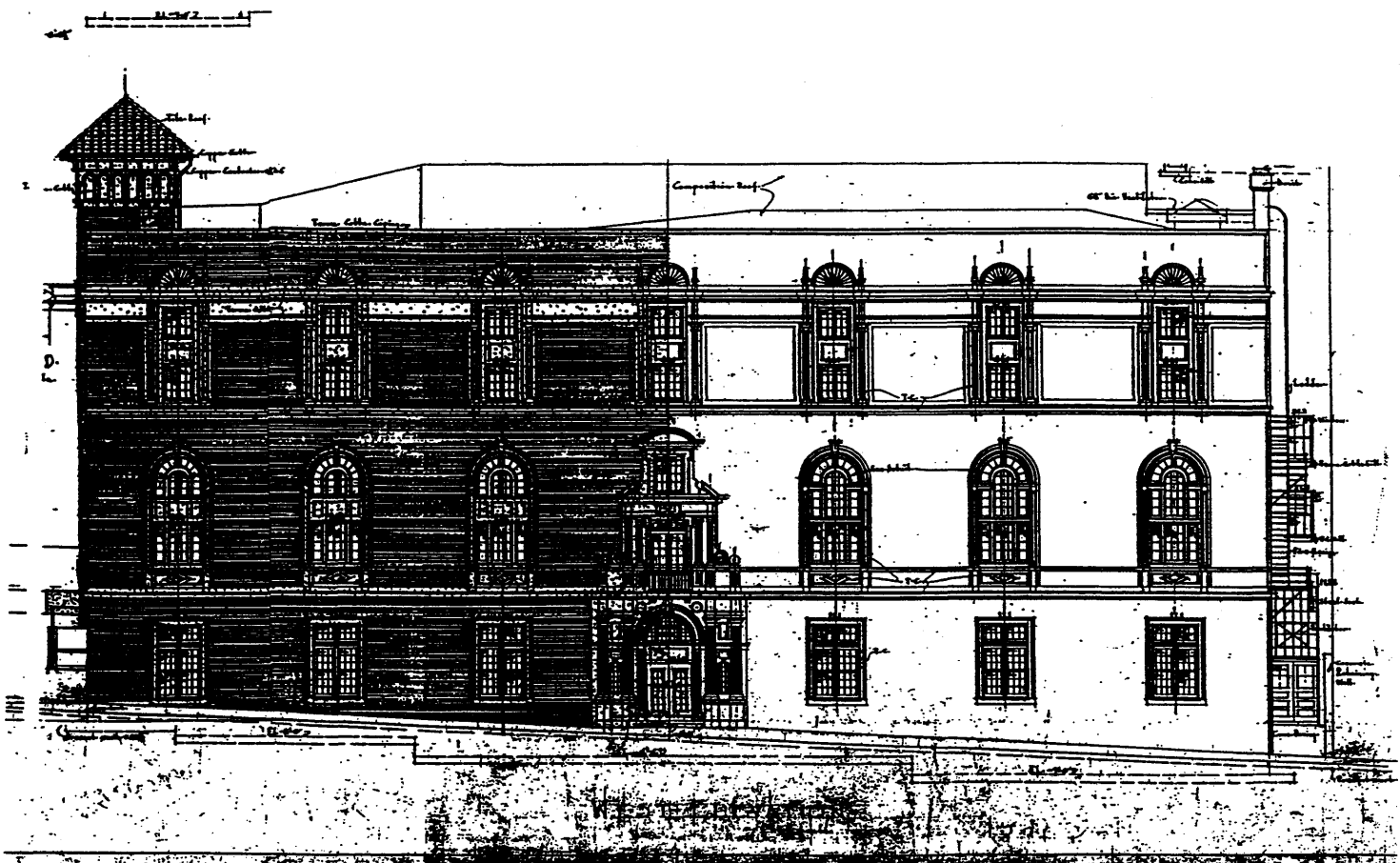
Additional
Section number Documentation Page 8

Masonic Temple
Woodbury County, IA

West Elevation

Source: Original Blueprints--Temple office

Date: 1921



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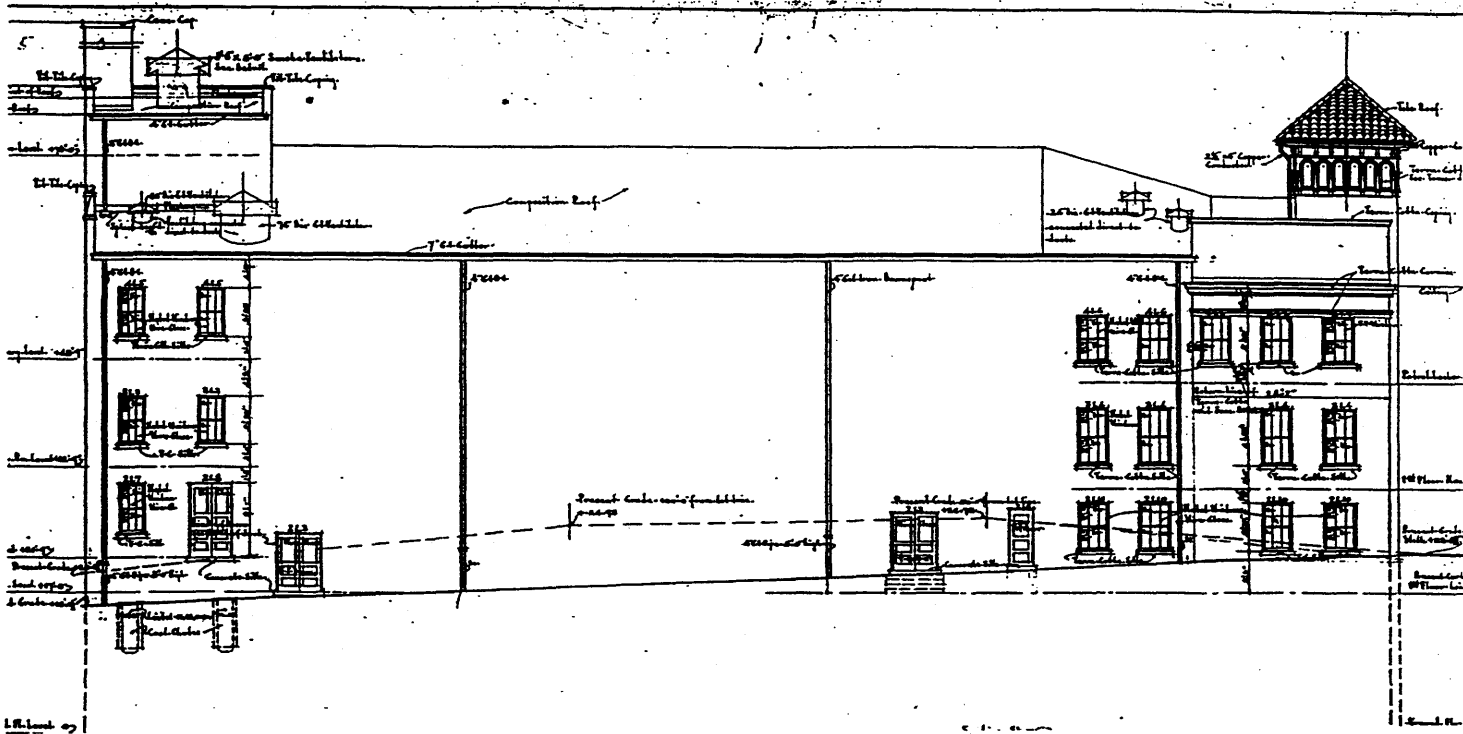
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Masonic Temple
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East Elevation

Source: Original Blueprints--Temple office

Date: 1921



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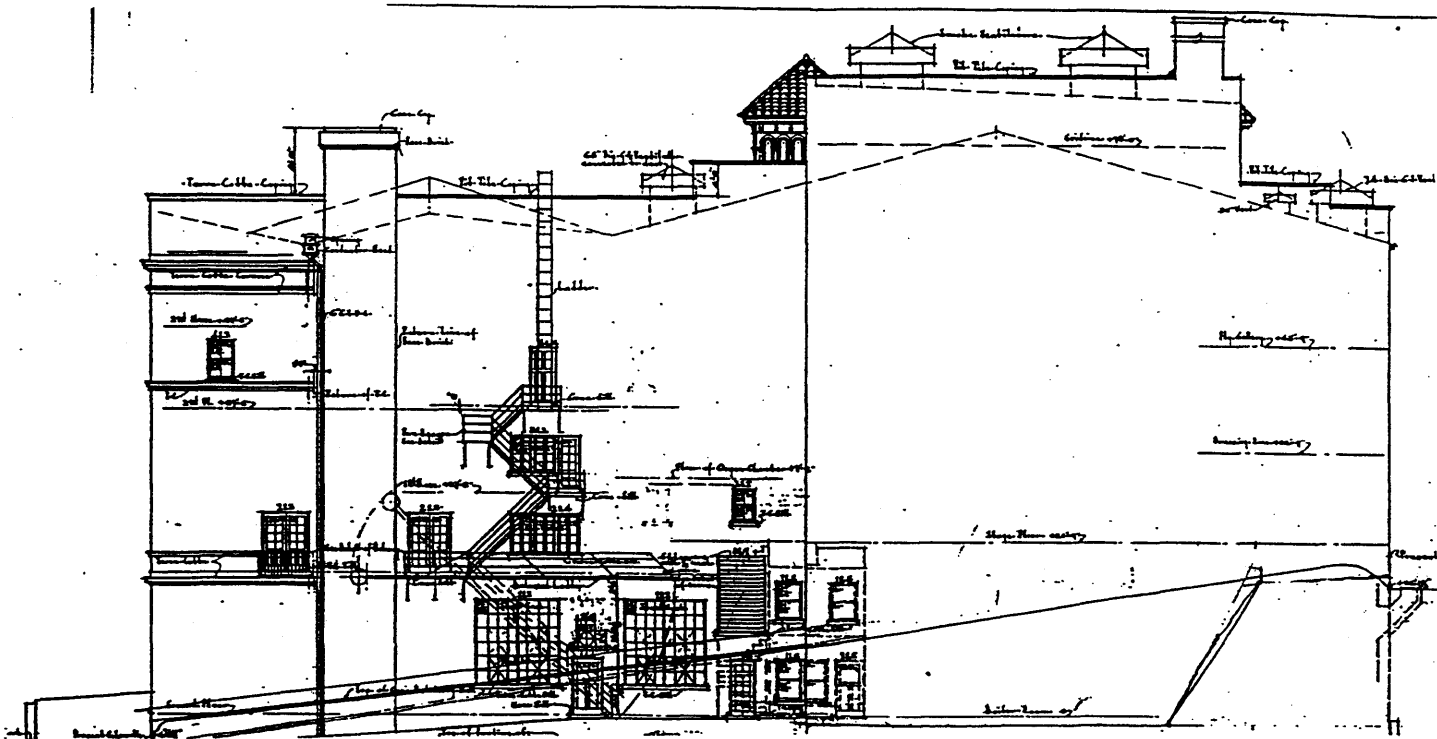
Additional
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Masonic Temple
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South Elevation

Source: Original Blueprints--Temple office

Date: 1921



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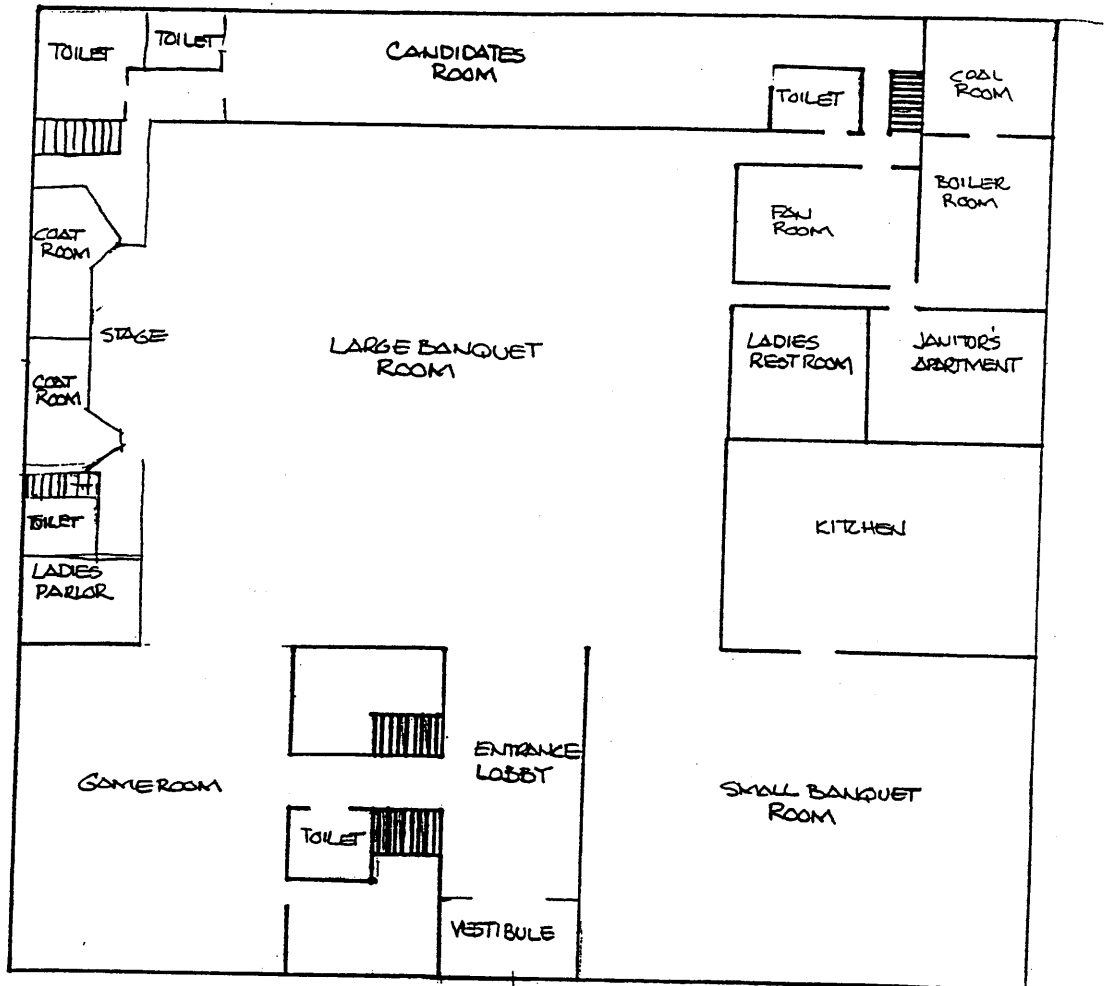
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Additional
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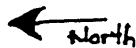
Masonic Temple
Woodbury County, IA

Ground Floor Plan

Source: Temple office, 2000



GROUND FLOOR



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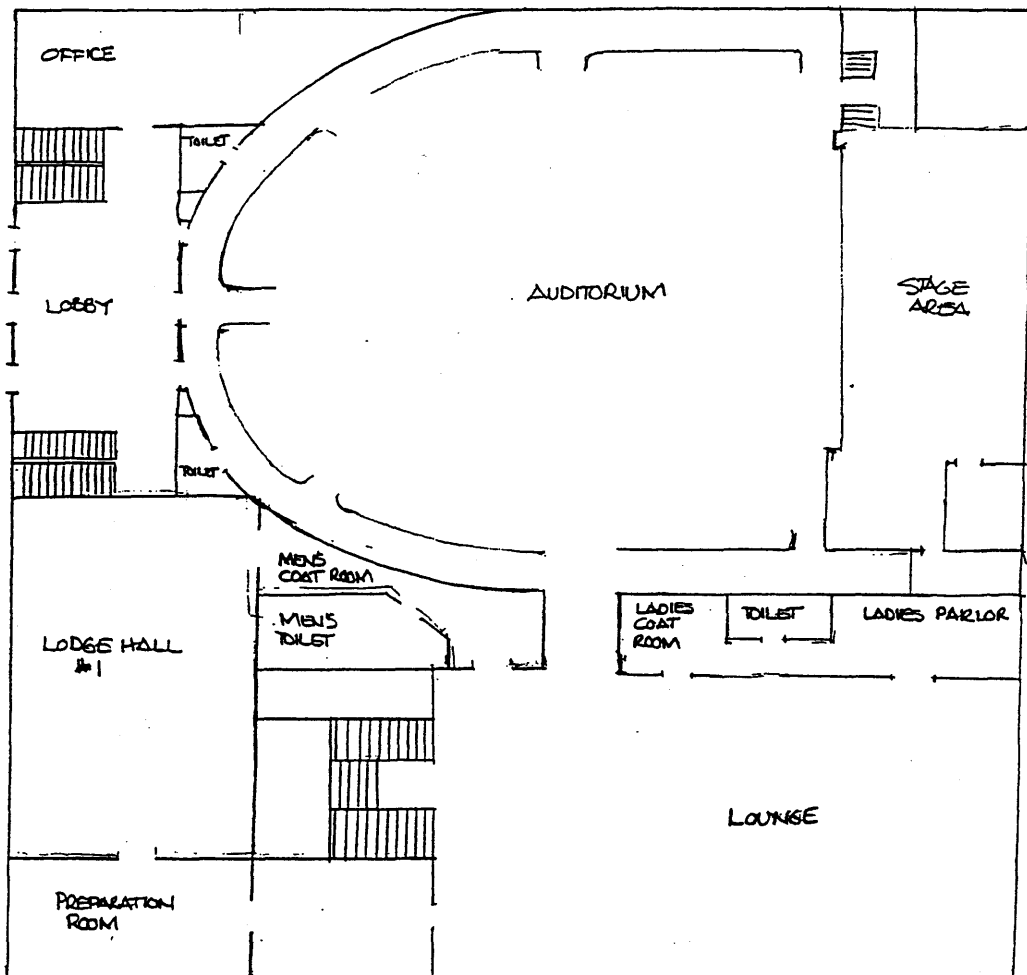
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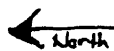
Masonic Temple
Woodbury County, IA

First Floor Elevation

Source: Temple office, 2000



1st Floor



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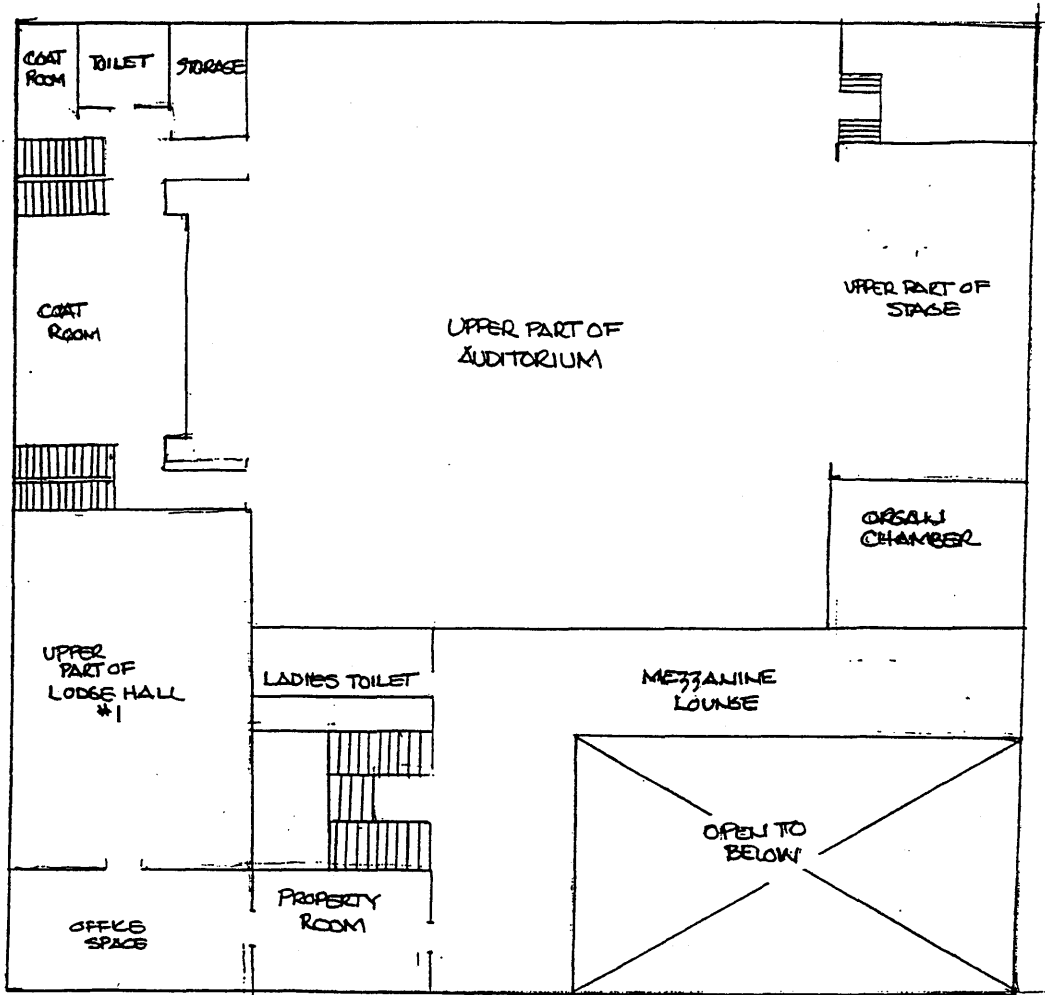
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Additional
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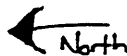
Masonic Temple
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Mezzanine Floor Plan

Source: Temple Office, 1921



MEZZANINE



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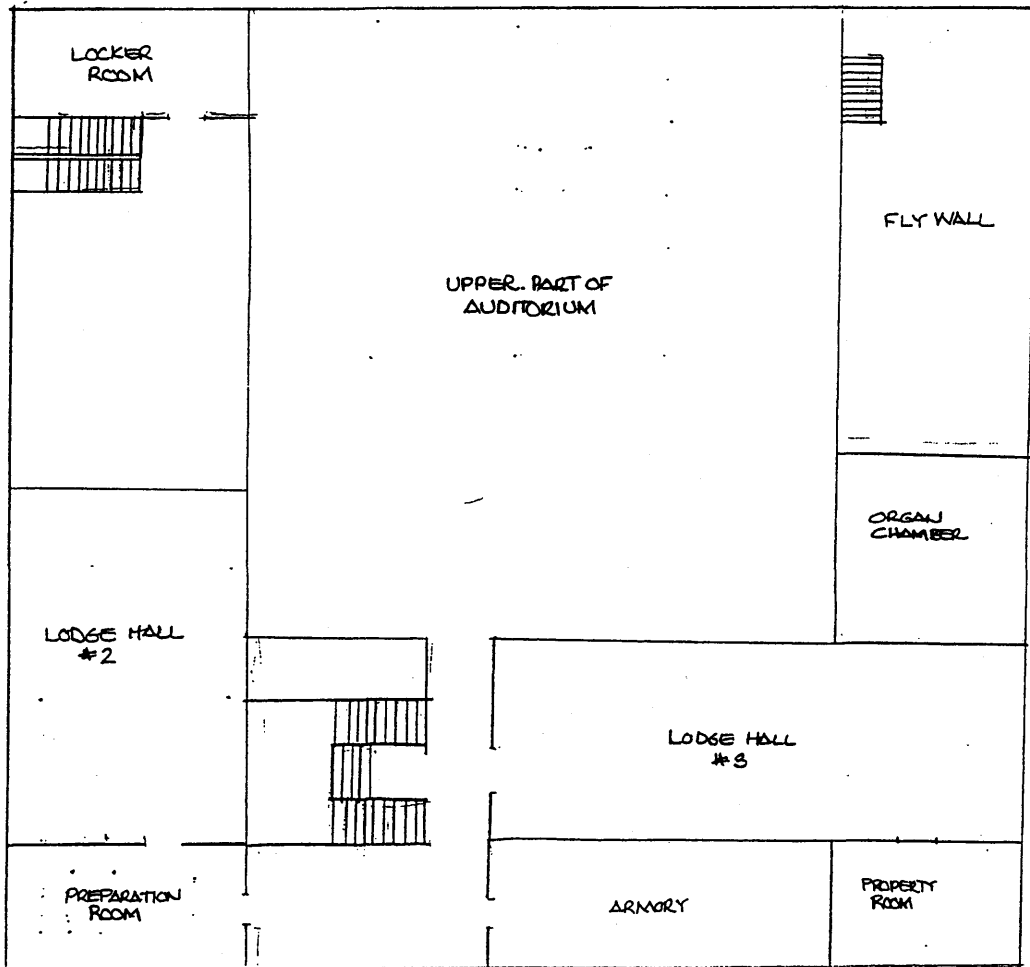
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Additional
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Masonic Temple
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Second Floor Plan

Source: Temple office, 2002



2ND FLOOR



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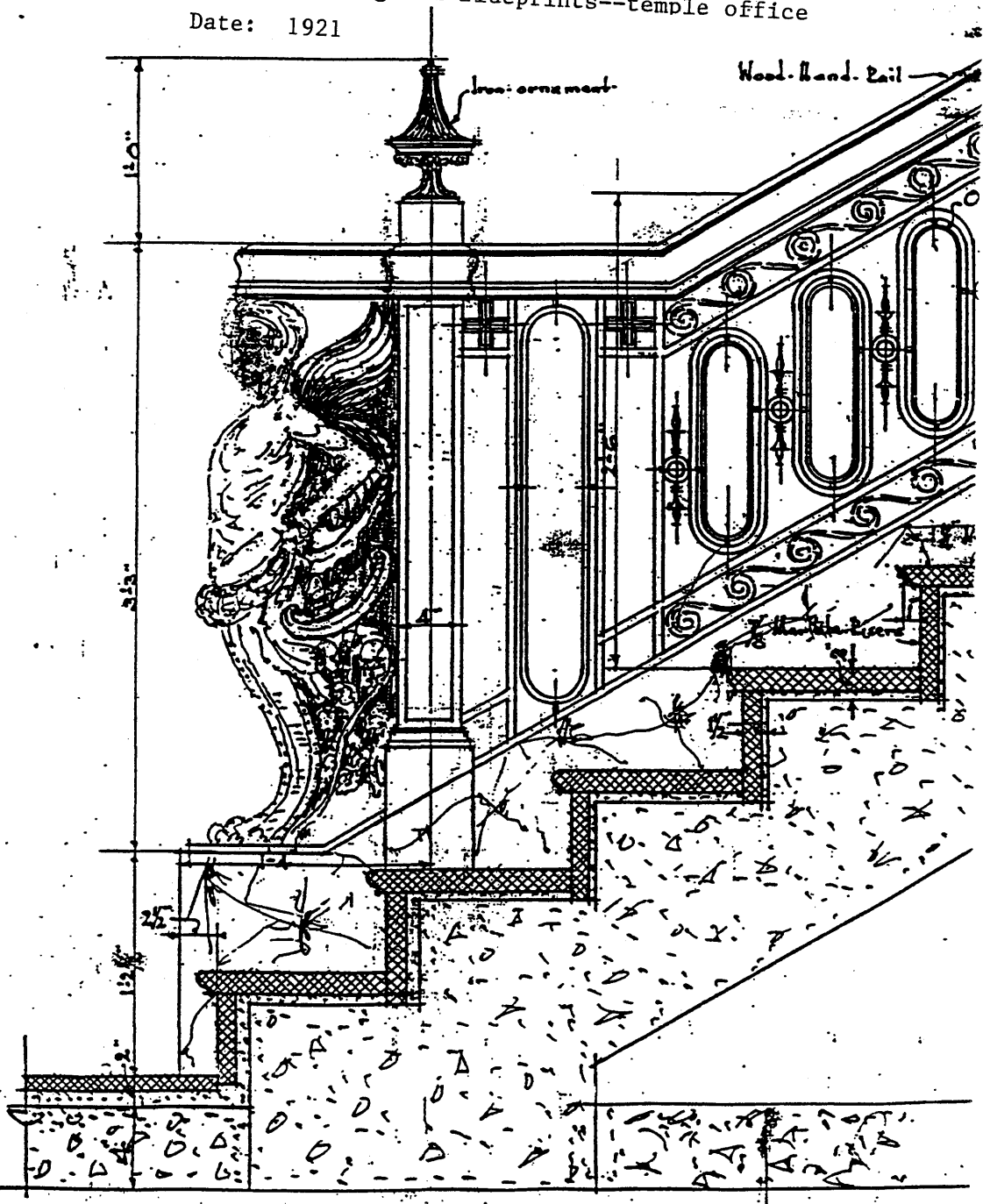
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Masonic Temple
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Detail of Stair at Ground Floor

Source: Original Blueprints--temple office
Date: 1921



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Sioux City Masonic Temple
Woodbury County, IA

Sioux City Masonic Temple
Sioux City, Woodbury County, Iowa

Photographer: Bruce Meyer Productions

Date: September 2002

Negatives: Bruce Meyer Productions, 810 29th Street, Sioux City, Iowa, 51104

Photographs

- #1 North entrance, camera pointing southwest
- #2 West entrance, camera pointing
- #3 South side of building, camera pointing north
- #4 Tower detail
- #5 Detail of "date built block" over west Entrance
- #6 Upper window detail, west side of building
- #7 North entrance, interior foyer
- #8 Main Auditorium, camera pointing north
- #9 Fourth floor meeting room, camera pointing east
- #10 Fourth Floor meeting room "Master of the Lodge" or "Potentate" chair, camera pointing east
- #11 "Master's Chair" (center), "Treasurer's Chair" (left) and "Chaplain's Chair" (right), camera point west
- #12 Second floor meeting room and upper mezzanine, camera pointing southeast

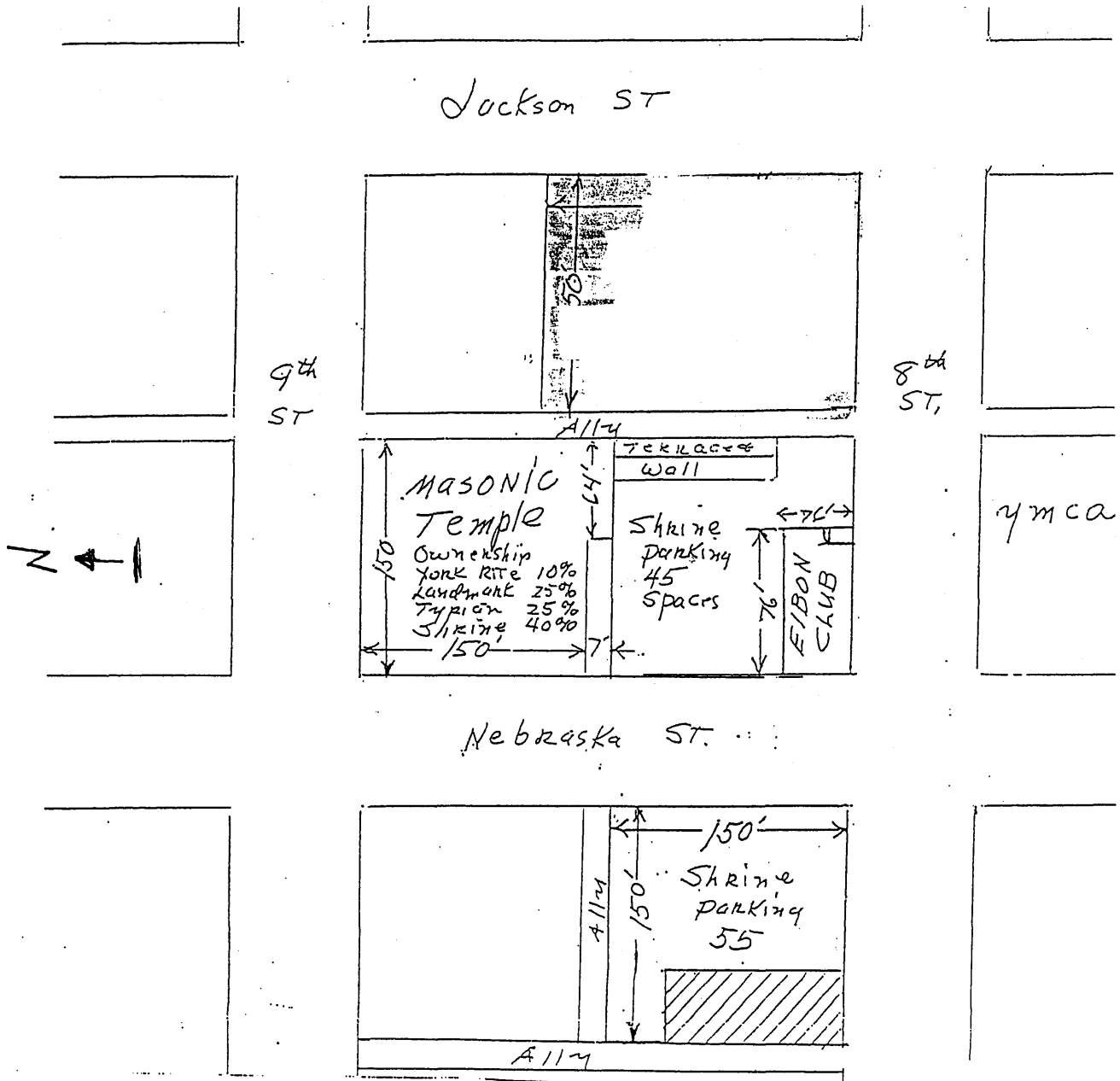
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Sioux City Masonic Temple
Woodbury County, IA

Map Source: Temple Office, December 2002



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Sioux City Masonic Temple
Woodbury County, IA

Map Source: SIMPCO, December 2002

