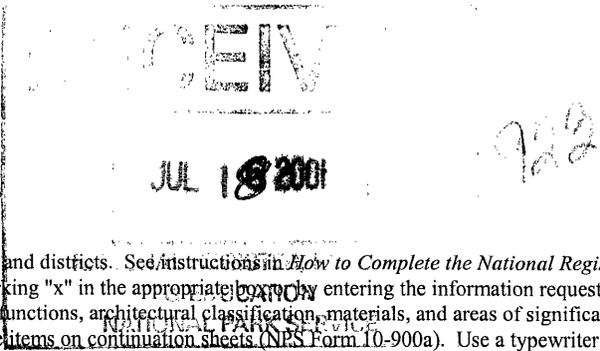


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**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 any 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 Devils Lake Masonic Temple  
other names/site number 32RY350

**2. Location**

street & number 403 Sixth Street N/A  not for publication  
city or town Devils Lake N/A  vicinity  
state North Dakota code ND county Ramsey code 071 zip code 58301

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr. 7-12-01  
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota) Date  
Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.

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 commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the National Register  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action  
9/1/01

**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>		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**

N/A

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)

Classical Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Rubber

other Bedford gray stone

Kettle River sandstone

Glass block

**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 "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 a 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**

1916  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1916  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Shannon, Joseph A. - Architect  
Fjeldseth & Johnson - Builder

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Devils Lake Masonic Temple  
Name of Property

Ramsey, ND  
County and State

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property less than 1acre

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	14	514200	5328770			
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

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.)

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### 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Barbara McCormick , Tech. Assist. by Louis N. Hafermehl, Consultant  
organization Devils Lake Historic Preservation Commission Date July 2, 2001  
street & number 502 Fourth Street telephone 701-662-3334  
city or town Devils Lake state ND zip code 58301

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### Additional Documentation

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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)

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### Property Owner

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

name Devils Lake Masonic Lodge #21, Richard Anderson, Worshipful Master  
street & number 403 Sixth Street, P. O. Box 793 telephone 701-662-2441  
city or town Devils Lake state ND zip code 58301

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**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 the 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 Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

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**Devils Lake Masonic Temple  
Ramsey County, ND**

**Description**

The Devils Lake Masonic Temple is located in Devils Lake, North Dakota, a town approximately two miles north of a large body of water after which the town itself is named. The building sits facing south at the southwest corner of Block 10 of the original town site, at the intersection of Sixth Street and Fourth Avenue. It is in its original location, one block north of the town's historic business center, and occupies approximately seventy-five percent of the site, upon which it is centered. To the north, south, and east of the building is lawn space, while the building's west wall abuts the city sidewalk. On the block directly south of the Masonic Temple sits the Ramsey County Courthouse, and south of that is the northern edge of the town's central business district. To the north, east, and west is residential area, with the city library located a half block northwest, and a large, Depression-era school building one block north. Across the street to the immediate west is residential area, several buildings of which have been converted for office use.

The main block of the Masonic Temple measures 70 feet north to south and 80 feet east to west. Exterior walls are primarily of buff-colored pressed brick from the Hebron Brick Company (founded in 1904, it is today the only operating brick manufacturer of the many that operated in the state in the early part of the twentieth century). Bedford limestone is used in the trim for the portico, cornices, windowsills and cartouches. A shallow gable roof extending from facade pediment peak to rear wall pediment peak is centered on the building's primarily flat roof. The original roof covering has been replaced with rubber membrane roofing.

The building's Classical Revival exterior is divided vertically into a raised basement, a two story section, and a cornice. The rusticated brick of the raised foundation is of a slightly darker color than the walls above, and is separated from them by a stone belt course. The building's primary facade (photo #1) is divided into nine bays, the center three of which are contained in a pedimented extension from the main wall of the building. Above the raised basement the bays are defined by pilasters with Doric capitals, except at the pedimented extension, where Ionic capitals are featured. Beneath the broken entablature of the pediment is a Palladian window configuration at the second floor level. A raised, columned portico, one bay in width, with a broken pediment is centered on the pedimented extension. Window openings throughout the building are slightly recessed beneath the corbelled entablature which encircles the building. Brick spandrel panels feature rectangles of a single course of projecting brick. End bays on the building's facade (photo #1) and rear wall (photo # 4) are windowless, but contain cartouches centered within the bays at the second floor level. East and west walls of the building (photos # 3 and #2, respectively) are eight bays in width, with the two end bays and the two center bays containing no windows but featuring cartouches centered within the bays at second floor level. An attic, the pillars of which repeat the rhythm of the pilasters on the wall below, sits atop the dentilled cornice which encircles the building.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

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## Devils Lake Masonic Temple Ramsey County, ND

### Description (continued)

The original Whitney windows were replaced in 1959 because they were being vandalized and in order to conserve heat in the building. The only original windows remaining are in the transoms above the main entry and above the vestibule doorway which leads to the interior stairway.

An interesting and somewhat unusual feature of the building, at least in the North Dakota context, is that on the primary facade the cartouches, the keystone in the Palladian window, and the Knights Templar emblem centered in the pediment all contain glass, which when lighted at night, illuminate for passers-by emblems pertaining to various Masonic bodies.

Perimeter walls are backed with hollow clay tile and finished with plaster. As one enters the building from the south, steps descend to the basement level and ascend to the second level. Floors of the vestibule are terrazzo and stairs are marble. There is also an entry from the west into a small vestibule, from which stairs descend to the basement level (photo #8).

The basement level consists of a large banquet room on the north spanning the full width of the building from east to west (photo# 9). In the southeast there is a small room and in the southwest a kitchen. On either side of the stairs are restrooms: men's to the east and ladies to the west. All floors in these rooms are maple; woodwork and doors are red oak veneer. The kitchen has been modernized over the years to accommodate electrical appliances, but the original cupboards are intact.

At the head of the stairs leading from the entry to the main floor is a hallway. To its right is the Moose room, which one enters through a colonnade of Ionic columns on pedestal bases. In the room's southeast corner is a brick fireplace with mirrors above and on both sides, and a six inch chair rail encircles the room.. Photographs of Lodge masters are hung on the north wall. To the left of the entry stairway the hall narrows and passes a kitchen/ cloakroom (partially converted to kitchen use between 1986 and 1990) to the Eastern Star Room, which occupies the southwest corner of the main floor. This room also has the chair railing and is furnished with leather upholstered oak furniture. Photographs of Worthy Matrons adorn its east and south walls. Off of this room and tucked behind the kitchen/cloakroom is a storage room used by the Rainbow Girls. From the Eastern Star room a narrow hallway extends along the west wall of the building; between it and the Blue Room, the Temple's focus, is a small bathroom and two short hallways onto which a series of closets used by the various Masonic bodies open.. Closet door casings are rendered in the Doric style. Closet doorknobs display Masonic and Eastern Star symbols.

The two-story Blue Room, with its beamed ceiling and dome is the focus of the Temple interior. Spanning the room's east wall is a raised stage in the east with a lighted cartouche of the Masonic emblem centered in the wall above (photo #5). A balcony spans the room's west wall, and is accessed by a stairway in the room's southwest corner (photo #6). Woodwork is of red oak and Doric style doors are red oak veneer.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7, 8 Page 3

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## Devils Lake Masonic Temple Ramsey County, ND

### Description (continued)

The focus of the Blue Room is the spectacular dome (photo #7), which features paintings of the various symbols of the Masonic orders. These paintings, the dome's light fixture, and the glass in the dome are original. Glass in the dome is the same as that used in the original windows. Painting in the dome are of various Masonic emblems: the Masonic Square and Compass; Order of the Eastern Star; Lodge of Perfection; Royal Arch Masons; Knights Templar; Knights Templar, and; Knights Templar.

The second level consists of two large rooms, presently used for storage, along the building's south wall.

### Statement of Significance

The Devils Lake Masonic Temple is architecturally significant under National Register Criterion C, in the context of local architecture during the second Dakota Boom, 1898 - 1917. It possesses an outstanding collection of stylistic elements which typify the Classical Revival style. It stands as a detached building with each facade reflecting the principles of the Classical Revival and its concerns for proportion and symmetry as interpreted by its designer, local architect, Joseph A. Shannon (1859 - 1934).

Devils Lake, the county seat of Ramsey County, was established in 1882 by Lt. Heber N. Creel as Creelsburgh. It was renamed Creel City in 1883, and then renamed Devils Lake in 1884. In 1915-1916, when the Masonic Temple was constructed, Devils Lake was a thriving, prosperous, city of approximately 6,000 and the business hub of the Lake Region, a commercial area of 7,500 square miles. The town was situated on the transcontinental line of the Great Northern Railway and was home to the main shops of the Great Northern. Also serving the community was the Soo Line, and several smaller lines.

When the Masonic Lodge at Devils Lake was established in 1885, a local paper, the "Inter-Ocean" described the installation ceremony as one of the greatest events in the history of the town, which was then but three years old. The lodge first occupied the second story of the International Order of the Odd Fellows Hall, located at 411 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This building, the sole remaining commercial building in Devils Lake surviving from the first North Dakota Boom (1878 - 1890) would remain the home of the lodge until dedication of the present-day Temple, which is the subject of this nomination, on May 18, 1916.

The Masonic Lodge has long been associated with the prominent families of Devils Lake in the various Masonic orders and social events. The youth organizations of Demolay for boys and Rainbow girls have provided enjoyment and inspiration of the right kind. Among the early prominent members of the lodge were J. W. Palmer, first Ramsey County Treasurer; H. C. Hansborough, a United States Senator from North Dakota; John A. Percival, first Ramsey County Register of Deeds; Frank Palmer, Pony Express mail carrier and later a state senator; James McCormick, member of the first legislature and then state senator; S. L. Wineman, Devils Lake merchant and owner of the original Opera House; and the Masonic Temple's designer, architect Joseph A. Shannon, architect.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

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## Devils Lake Masonic Temple Ramsey County, ND

### Statement of Significance (continued)

Shannon, was Devils Lake's first bona fide architect. He was born in Edina, Missouri on March 21, 1859, and there he spent his boyhood. At the age of twenty he moved with his family to Beardsley, Minnesota, where he worked as a carpenter. In 1886 he homesteaded near Bristol South Dakota. For three years he was employed by the government as a carpenter at Fort Sisseton, South Dakota. For many years he engaged in building contracting. Little is known of the nature of his architectural training. He was practicing architecture in Devils Lake by 1906, and, though he apparently claimed to possess no recognized architectural certificate or degree, he was one of the state's first architects to be granted license to practice architecture under North Dakota's licensing law, which was passed in 1917. He served for three years as the president of the North Dakota State Board of Architecture. He resided in Devils Lake until his death on January 25, 1934.

The list of known buildings attributed to Shannon bear evidence of a high degree of architectural literacy and the ability to work within a variety of idioms, including Classical, Gothic, and Romanesque Revival Styles as well as the Chicago, or Prairie, Style. Shannon is known to have designed seventeen buildings in the City of Devils Lake fifteen of which remain standing. Of these, the most imposing and the purest of his classical compositions, is the Devils Lake Masonic Temple. A student of Shannon's work, Steve Martens, Associate Professor of Architecture, North Dakota State University, has written that the Temple's design "employs a characteristically Shannon trait of reducing elements such as the giant orders to ornament, and then rendering them in brick," and that "[T]he building is done in what by that time was clearly Shannon's favorite medium; brick with cast concrete (and in this single case ceramic) ornament." In addition, the Masonic Lodge exhibits most of those characteristic features of what is considered 'the Shannon idiom': rigid, as opposed to flowing, ornamentation; close attention to entrances, often marked by use of a portico; the framing of a medallion, shield, or crest on a blank wall; the almost exclusive use of brick; the use of color harmonies in the brickwork; symmetrical composition; and, flirtation with almost every popular style. A quick glance at the photographs accompanying this nomination make readily apparent the conformance of the Devils Lake Masonic Temple to 'the Shannon idiom.'

The Masonic Temple is the best example of Joseph A. Shannon's work in the city of Devils Lake. The building's exterior has not been altered except for the removal of its original stained glass windows. Interior alterations have been limited to modernization of the kitchen and cloakroom. The building maintains a high level of integrity as defined by the National Register.

Shannon's Devils Lake Masonic Temple is representative of the designs and method of construction of the early 1900s in Devils Lake. Its period of significance is restricted to its date of construction, 1916.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 5

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**Devils Lake Masonic Temple  
Ramsey County, ND**

**Bibliography**

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- Devils Lake Lodge No. 21. "Lodge minutes." Masonic Temple. Devils Lake, North Dakota.
- Frank, Frederick H. North Dakota Cultural Resource Survey. Archeology and Historic Preservation Division Manuscript Collection, North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck, North Dakota, June 1981.
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- Martens, Steve C. "The Work of John A. Shannon, Architect." Unpublished paper, North Dakota State University, 1973.
- Ohrt, Allen. Interview with Barbara McCormick, May 1998. Librarian for Grand Lodge of North Dakota, A.F. & A.M. Fargo, North Dakota.
- People of Ramsey County. *Ramsey County Centennial Books, Volumes I, II, III*. Centennial Heritage Book Committee, Devils Lake, ND, 1983.
- Pond, Harold Sackett. *Masonry in North Dakota*. The Record Printers, Grafton, North Dakota, 1964.
- Roberts, Norene. "National Register Reconnaissance & Intensive Survey of Devils Lake, North Dakota." Archeology and Historic Preservation Division Manuscript Collection, North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck, ND, 1987.
- Shannon, John A. Original blueprints of the Devils Lake, North Dakota, Masonic Temple. Masonic Temple, Devils Lake, North Dakota.

**Verbal boundary description**

The property is composed of Lots 13, 14, and 15 and the West half of lot 16 in Block 10 of the original Town Site of Devils Lake, North Dakota.

**Boundary justification**

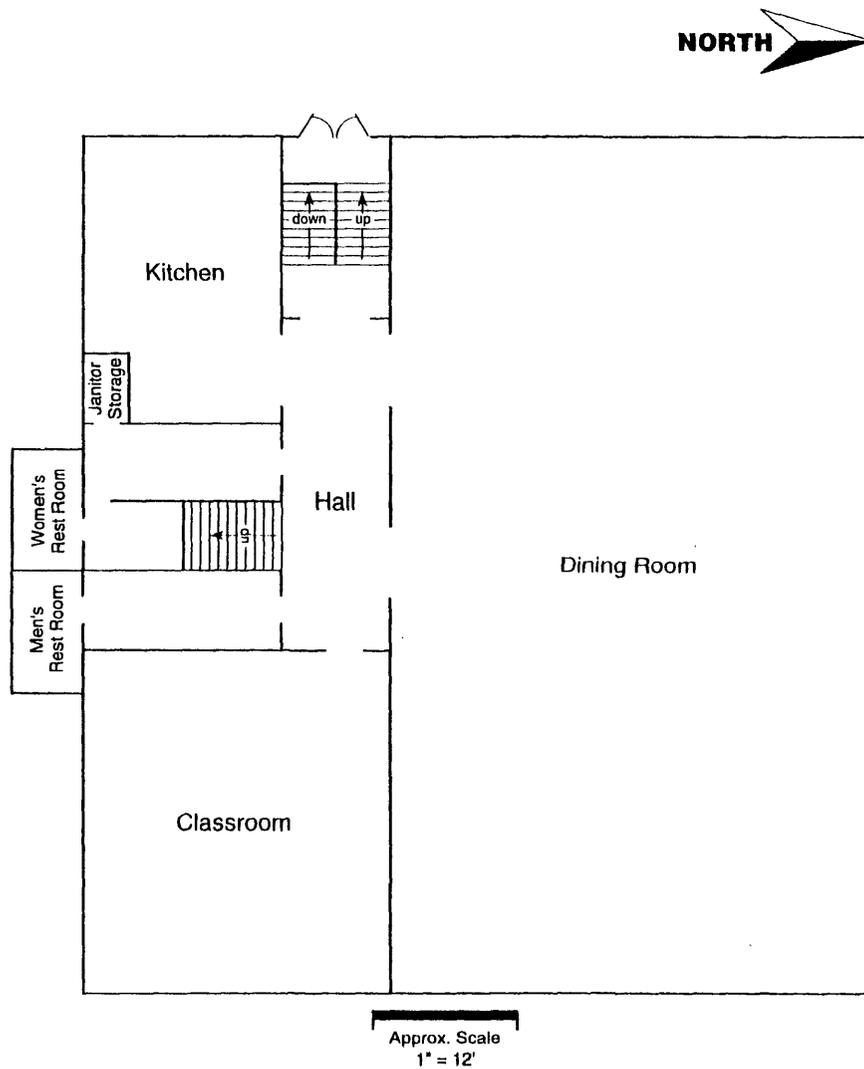
The boundaries comprise all of the land associated with the Devils Lake Masonic Temple since its construction at this location in 1915.

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

Section number 10 Page 6

Devils Lake Masonic Temple  
Ramsey, North Dakota

**DRAWINGS**



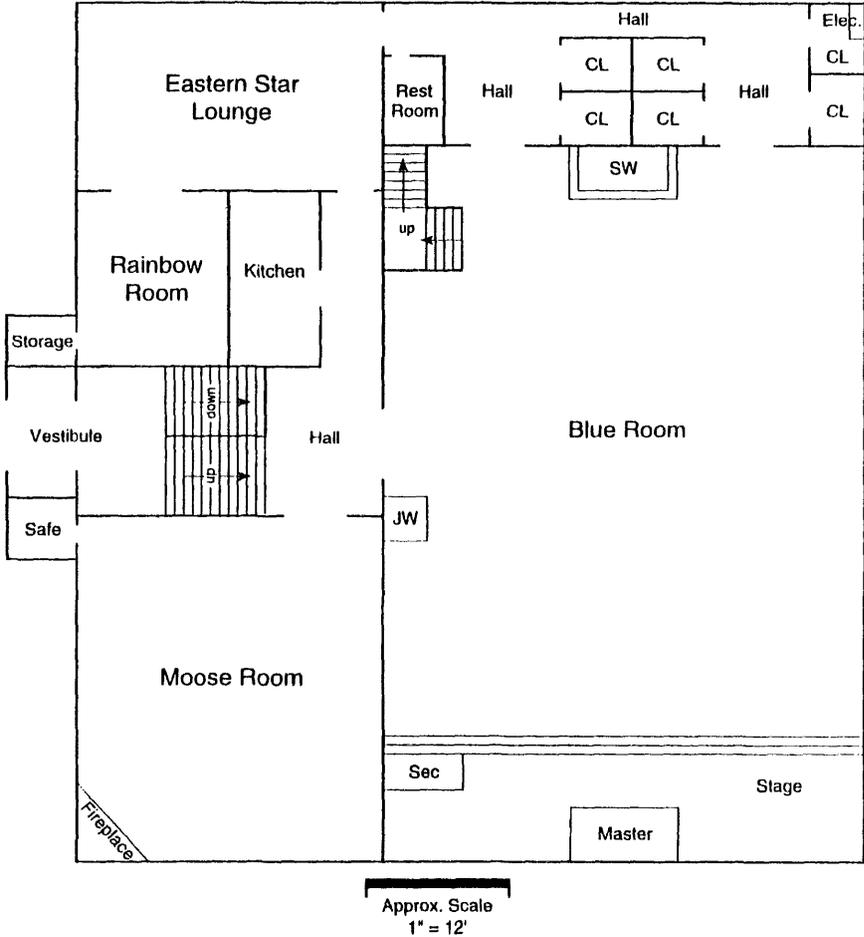
*Devils Lake Masonic Lodge No. 21*  
**BASEMENT**

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

Section number 10 Page 7

Devils Lake Masonic Temple  
Ramsey, North Dakota

**DRAWINGS**



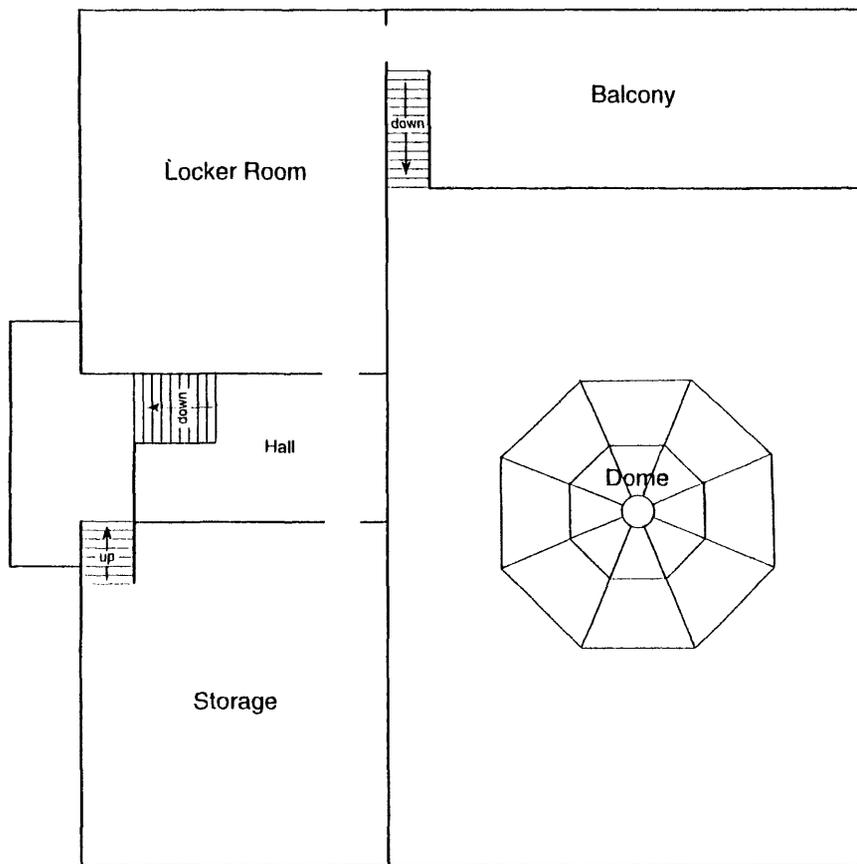
*Devils Lake Masonic Lodge No. 21*  
**MAIN FLOOR**

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

Section number 10 Page 8

Devils Lake Masonic Temple  
Ramsey, North Dakota

**DRAWINGS**



Approx. Scale  
1" = 12'

*Devils Lake Masonic Lodge No. 21*  
**2ND FLOOR**