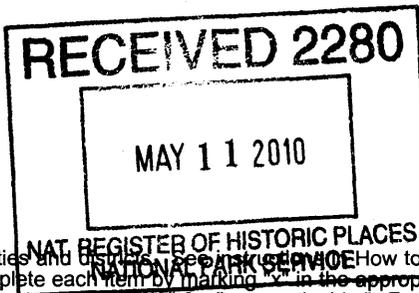


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. 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 THE MASONIC TEMPLE OF CITRUS, LODGE # 118, F. and A.M.

other names/site number The Masonic Business Center, FMSF#CI 164

2. Location

street & number 111 West Main Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Inverness N/A  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Citrus code 017 zip code 34450

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.)

Barbara E. Mattick / DSHPO 5/10/2010  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation  
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  See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

for Signature of the Keeper  
Jane M. ...

Date of Action  
6/23/2010

**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)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

**Name of related multiple property listings**  
(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

COMMERCIAL: retail

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCIAL: retail

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Style - Two Part Block

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

\_\_\_\_\_

roof ASPHALT

other CAST STONE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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 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 36) 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**

1910

**Significant Dates**

1910

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Talley, Wilber B.: architect

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of Repository

# \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	3 7 0 1 0 5	3 1 9 0 3 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
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 Diaz-Fonseca, Sophia/Robert O. Jones, Historic Preservationist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date April 2010

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399-0250

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 Sophia Diaz-Fonseca

street & number 920 Turner Camp Road telephone 352.860.0646

city or town Inverness state FL zip code 34453

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 amend 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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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 **MASONIC TEMPLE of CITRUS,  
INVERNESS, CITRUS COUNTY,  
FLORIDA**

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**SUMMARY**

The Masonic Temple of Citrus, Lodge # 118, F. and A.M., currently named the Masonic Business Center, is located at 111 West Main Street, Inverness, Florida. The architect, Wilbur B. Talley of Jacksonville, designed the Masonic Temple, and it was built in 1910 for the freemasons of Citrus County. It is a Commercial Two-Part Block type of construction with Neo-Classical features. The three-story rectangular building has a flat asphalt roof and a parapet. The Masonic Temple was built with two commercial storefronts on the first story, professional offices in the second floor, and the Masonic Lodge space on the third floor. The building exterior retains most of the original architectural details. The exterior is red and buff brick. Windows are filled with 1/1 and 2/2 double-hung sashes. A prominent metal cornice is located just below the parapet at the roofline. A metal "Masonic Temple" nameplate is centered in the middle of the north facade. The primary alterations to the Masonic Temple occurred in the 1980s and 1990s.

**SETTING**

The Masonic Temple of Citrus is located in the downtown of Inverness, Florida. Inverness serves as the county seat of Citrus County, and is adjacent to the Withlacoochee State Forest to the west and south. The Masonic Temple is situated at the intersection of south Pine Avenue and West Main Street. The building's main entrance faces north onto west Main Street, which contains a block of historic, single-story storefronts. These include the Citizen's Bank building, Turner's Dry Goods, and Allen's 5 & Dime Building. The Masonic Temple is located in the central business, historic downtown of Inverness. It is one block west of the 1912 Citrus County Courthouse. The Masonic Temple is attached on the east side to the one-story 1911 Building (Photo #1). Adjacent to the 1911 Building is the 1915 Ocala Star Banner Building. Highways 44/41 run from east to west south of the building.

When the building was constructed, Main Street was a dirt road, and commercial buildings existed to the east and south of the building (1926 Sanborn Map). Wood Frame Vernacular homes lined the Main Street to the west.

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**MASONIC TEMPLE of CITRUS,  
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**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

**Exterior**

The three-story Masonic Temple is a rectangular, brick-clad wood-framed building. It rests on a combination of a continuous concrete foundation with individual concrete footings supporting wooden floor joints. The roof is flat with an asphalt and gravel surface, and has a parapet on the north, east, and west elevations. The north elevation has red brick at the first story, primarily around the central entry, and buff brick at the second and third stories. The south and east elevations are covered in common red brick. The east elevation shares a wall with the adjacent one-story 1911 Building.

The north facade has two distinct horizontal sections (Photo #2). The first section is the first story with display windows and a central main entrance, and the second section is the second and third stories used for offices. The display windows are surrounded with stucco. The central Roman arched entrance has a large cast stone keystone (Photo #3). This arch rests on white concrete imposts shaped like simple capital and neck forms. The entry door and stucco were added in the 1950s. Large numbers "1910" are above the arch. The arch and corners of the building beyond the stucco are red brick, as are five decorative belt courses separating the first and second story. Brick pilasters flank the entry and rise to the entablature below the roof line. The second and third stories are surfaced with buff colored brick. Brick pilasters at the corners rise both stories to the entablature. Windows on both stories are rectangular 1/1 double-hung wooden sashes, with cast stone sills and flat arches across the top including cast stone keystone and corner elements (Photo #4). Windows with paired sashes are in each story above the entry. Two single windows evenly spaced across the other two bays are in each story with sills and headers like those above the entry. Above the second story central window is a bronze plaque with the words "Masonic Temple" and the symbol of rule and compass. At the tops of the pilasters are brick capitals. Between the pilasters and the entablature are brick belt courses. Tri-glyph metal modillions (Photo #5) span the entablature and support the large galvanized metal cornice with dentils. Between the modillions, two wide horizontal sections comprise the frieze, and above that, is a row of dentil molding that supports a deep soffit and the cornice. A brick parapet is stepped across most of the elevation and has brick courses topping it. Two short brick pilasters are on the parapet in line with the two pilasters rising from the entry.

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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The west elevation which fronts North Pine Avenue (Photo #6) was historically used for receiving deliveries and as a second entryway into the building. This historic entryway (Photo #7) led to a wooden staircase that the Masons used to enter the building undisturbed and served as a fire exit. The west elevation also has two display windows on the first story near the north corner, and evenly spaced windows on the second and third stories. Red brick was used across the first story and buff brick on the second and third stories. Pilasters, as on the north elevation, rise the two stories to the frieze, and divide the elevation into six bays. The rectangular windows have the same sills, headers, and 1/1 sashes as the north elevation. The windows in the northern most bay contain single sashes. A single window is in the southern most bay located between the second and third story. The middle four bays have pairs of sashes in the window openings. Tri-glyph modillions are only above the pilasters at the north and south corners. The metal cornice and parapet is present on the elevation.

The south and east elevations are constructed of common red brick. Aside from a header course, there is no detailing. The south elevation fronts US highways 44/41, commonly known as the "Gulf to Lake Highway" (Photo #8). Before 1993, a narrow, dirt alleyway existed on the south side of the building for delivery and as a service entrance (Photo #9). The fenestration on the ground floor of this elevation includes seven narrow-cased windows sitting on cast stone sills, and one door at the east corner. Both the second and third stories include four 2/2 steel double-hung sashes with arched top openings (Photo #10). The windows closest to the southeast corner contain wire glass panes. There is no parapet and the roofline is finished with red brick coping. The east elevation shares a first story wall with 107 West Main Street. The fenestration consists of ten windows on both the second and third stories with sashes identical to those on the south elevation (Photo #11). As on the west elevation, single windows are located at the north and south ends of the elevation. Pairs of single windows in four groups are evenly grouped across the elevation. A parapet is present on this elevation.

### Interior

The Masonic Temple has four first floor retail spaces where historically there were two. The entry with its main central staircase, the south staircase entered from the west, and a bathroom are original to the floor. A door to the east of the central entry (Photo #12) gives access to a hall and entry to a storefront and office (Photo #13). The hall runs south along

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the length of the building to an elevator, bathrooms, a professional office, a retail store at the south end of the building, and a hallway to the west entrance. The original wooden staircase that has an entry on the west elevation rises along the south wall and accesses the second and third floors (Photo #14). The white oak boxed newel post with a pedestal and bun top, square balusters and curved handrails remain unpainted and in very good condition. An aluminum-framed, glass double door with an arched transom encloses the main entry (Photo #2). Immediately inside, the original heart-pine staircase with central handrail ascends to the second floor (Photo #15).

The second floor contains seven office suites, two storage rooms, and two public restrooms. The floor retains its original configuration, most of the original heart pine flooring (Photo #16&17), window frames (Photo #18), hand-planed chair rails, both sets of original double oak doors, and single-light office doors and transoms. Ductwork was left exposed at the ceiling when air conditioning was installed, and drywall replaced the interior plaster walls. A bathroom at the southwest corner replaced an office. An elevator is at the south stair landing.

The third floor retains the central ballroom used by the Masons (Photo #19), and is partitioned into ten office suites, two storage rooms, and two restrooms (one original to the floor). In 1993, the county, who leased the floor, installed offices around the exterior walls of the open third floor formerly used for Masonic meetings. The original, double, wooden panel doors still lead from the south hall into the central space (Photo #20). Two bathrooms are in that hall adjacent to the two stairway landings. The elevator opens into the south hall (Photo #21). Each office has a door, wooden floors, picture rails around the plaster perimeter walls in every office, and a wooden framed window.

### **ALTERATIONS**

In the 1950s doors were installed in the open main entrance on Main Street. In 1987, steel or aluminum and glass doors were installed, and the first floor was reconfigured to suit new tenants as retail spaces were reconfigured into four retail spaces. New stucco-surrounded store fronts were installed, and the storefront on the northwest corner of the west elevation was reduced in size. The delivery door on the west elevation became the entrance to the southerly hallway and stairwell, and the west entrance was enclosed. The Citrus County Commissioners leased the third floor for their offices from 1993 until 2003.

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They added a sprinkler system throughout the building. An elevator shaft and handicapped accessible bathrooms were placed in an office space at the south end. The elevator and bathrooms were the only major alterations of the second floor. A steel evacuation staircase with wood steps that rises from the first floor, bypasses the second floor and terminates on the third floor, was added inside the interior east side of the building (Photo #22). The third floor was reconfigured during this time with the large temple area broken up into a central meeting room with perimeter offices, a u-shaped hallway, two bathrooms and the entry for a steel emergency staircase added.

When the current owners purchased the Masonic Temple in 2006, they began making repairs. In 2008 they began work under the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, carrying out extensive repairs including replicating missing chair rails along the second floor east wall and public areas of the second and third floors. Pendant lighting replaced fluorescent fixtures in the public areas of all three floors. On the third floor, a wall was constructed across the north end of the central ballroom, creating an east to west hall. The original transom above the west elevation door that had been sealed (Photo #7) was uncovered. The exterior of the south and east elevations were painted to protect the soft brick, and the galvanized metal cornice was repaired.

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**SUMMARY**

The Masonic Temple of Citrus, Lodge # 118, F. and A.M., is nominated to the National Register for local significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. It is an excellent example of Two-Part Commercial Block construction, and includes many fine Neo-Classical features. It was designed by prominent Florida architect Wilbur Burt Talley. The membership of this Lodge included many of the local industry leaders, county founders, and prominent citizens. Located in the commercial downtown and political hub of the county, it is a local landmark building with Classical features that bespoke the influence of the Masons, who had the building constructed in 1910, and held their meetings there until 1965.

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

In 1868, a Confederate Civil War veteran named Alfred D. Tompkins settled in the vicinity of present-day Inverness with the intention of establishing a community. His brother-in-law, Frank M. Dampier, Sr., was responsible for establishing the first store, sawmill, bank, and served as Mayor, City Councilman, and Police Chief of the town. Dampier also named the town "Tompkinsville" after Tompkins. At the time, this area was part of Hernando County. Citrus, Hernando and Pasco counties were created out of Hernando County in 1887. After Citrus became a separate entity, Tompkins sold his interests in the town to a Jacksonville firm. In 1889, this firm agreed to build a new courthouse there if the townspeople agreed to change the name of the town from Tompkinsville to Inverness. Local legend describes a lonely Scotsman who thought the landscape resembled that of his hometown of Inverness, Scotland.<sup>1</sup>

In the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the economic boom from lumber, citrus, and phosphate contributed to the development of Citrus County and the City of Inverness. Inverness had a population of only 250 in the 1880s, but economic and political events, most notably Inverness' becoming the county seat in May 1891, led to significant growth in the early 1900s.

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<sup>1</sup> Hampton Dunn, *Back Home: A History of Citrus County, Florida* (Inverness, FL: Citrus County Historical Society, Inc., 1989), 67-69, 91-92, 115.

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**Freemasonry in Florida & Citrus County**

Once Inverness became the official county seat in 1891, commercial structures were quickly built to house the businesses surrounding the new wooden Frame Vernacular Citrus County Courthouse. These wooden structures required frequent maintenance and were susceptible to catching fire. Locomotives passing on the ACL tracks northeast of the courthouse often spewed cinders which caused fires in 1904 and 1913.<sup>2</sup> Once Inverness became the county seat, and began experiencing a citrus and phosphate boom, the healthy economic conditions led the Commissioners of Citrus County to levy a building tax to begin the construction of a brick courthouse.<sup>3</sup> The expectation of future prosperity convinced many business owners to build brick commercial structures, the first one being the Old Scofield Building, built in 1908.<sup>4</sup>

The history of Freemasonry in Florida begins during Florida's British Period in 1768, with the creation of Grant's East Florida Lodge 143 in Saint Augustine, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. A second lodge followed in Pensacola in 1771. After the Spanish regained control of Florida in 1781, Catholic authorities suppressed both lodges, effectively ending Freemasonry in Florida. It was not until the United States assumed control of Florida in 1822 that Freemasonry was able to reestablish itself on a permanent basis. The first permanent lodge in the state of Florida was the Jackson Lodge Number 23 in Tallahassee, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Alabama on December 19, 1825. Soon afterwards two other lodges were formed in Marianna and Quincy. In 1830, the three lodges created the Grand Lodge of the Territory of Florida in Tallahassee.<sup>5</sup>

In the late 1820s and early 1830s, anti-Masonic sentiment was at its height following the Morgan Affair. In 1826, William Morgan, an obscure brewer who sought revenge for being denied membership to the Batavia, New York, lodge, threatened to write a book revealing all Masonic secrets. A group of Batavia's Freemasons kidnapped and killed Morgan, sparking a national outcry fueled in part by anti-Jackson sentiment (Andrew Jackson was a Mason) that led to the creation of the Anti-Masonic Party. Due to these

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<sup>2</sup> Citrus County Chronicle, Nov. 3, 1949.

<sup>3</sup> Dunn, Back Home, p. 210.

<sup>4</sup> Citrus County Property Appraiser: Planning and Building permits #4853.

<sup>5</sup> Grand Lodge of Florida Free and Accepted Masons History Committee, History of Freemasonry in Florida (Jacksonville, FL: Grand Lodge of Florida F&AM, 1962), 7-24.

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developments, Freemasonry grew slowly in Florida. By 1850, there were 21 charters granted, with one lodge moving to Georgia. Between 1850 and 1860, there were 30 new lodges, more than doubling the total number of lodges within the state. After the Civil War, the number of Masonic lodges jumped considerably, with 70 new lodges created between 1865 and 1879.<sup>6</sup>

The Citrus Lodge Number 118 was chartered on January 21, 1891, one of 11 new lodges started that year in Florida. It was named Citrus as a tribute to Florida's main agricultural crop. The chartering Line Officers were the Reverend Alexander A. Wilson, Worshipful Master; A. D. Tompkins, Senior Warden; and E.A. Harrison, Junior Warden.<sup>7</sup> These and many other Freemasons helped shape the identity of Citrus County. They represented all walks of life, including doctors, farmers, lawyers, cattle ranchers, politicians, business leaders, law enforcement officers, and educators. The first grand master lodge, the Reverend Alexander Wilson was a Cumberland Presbyterian minister and founder of the first Cumberland Presbyterian church in the state of Florida. The senior warden of the lodge was Alfred D. Tompkins, the founder of Inverness. Wilson and Tompkins were two of nineteen charter members of the lodge. Among the other early leaders of the lodge was John E. King, an early settler who became master of the lodge in 1905.<sup>8</sup>

Prior to the establishment of a permanent meeting place, the Citrus Lodge shared meeting facilities with other local groups. One of the early meeting places of the Citrus Lodge was at the Butterfield House on Trout Avenue, which also served as a church at one time. The

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<sup>6</sup> A Page About Freemasonry, "The Morgan Affair and the US Anti-masonry Movement," [accessed online] accessed at <http://web.mit.edu/dryfoo/Masonry/Essays/morgan.html>; J. Roy Crowther, The Grand Lodge of Florida Free and Accepted Masons History: Vol. I The Lodges, (Jacksonville, FL: Drummond Press, 1988), 555.

<sup>7</sup> Dunn, Back Home, p.285: The chartering Grand Lodge Officers were Henry W. Long, Grand Master; Angus Paterson, Deputy Grand Master; Granville Beal, Senior Grand Warden; John F. Niblack, Junior Grand Warden; and De Witt C. Dawkins, Grand Secretary. Other early notable members of the lodge included K. Kelley (owner of a turpentine factory, timber dealer and County Commissioner), G. W. Boswell (Citrus County Property Appraiser), Dr. H. J. Miller, County Judge George de Muro (Judge and owner of interests in a Floral City phosphate mine) and E. P. Graham (Citrus County Sheriff).

<sup>8</sup> Crowther, Grand Lodge of Florida History, 224; Historical Foundation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, "Rev. Alexander Anderson Wilson: Cumberland Presbyterian Minister," accessed online at <http://www.cumberland.org/hfpcp/minister/WilsonAA.htm>.

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first permanent meeting place was a three-story wooden building, built sometime between 1891 and 1910. This building burned down before 1910.<sup>9</sup>

Walter Fletcher Warnock, Sr. (1875-1920), the son-in-law of the original Citrus Lodge grand master Alexander Wilson, was chiefly responsible for the construction of the Masonic building. Warnock was the Clerk of the Citrus County Circuit Court and editor and owner of the Citrus County Chronicle in addition to serving as Grand Master of the Citrus Lodge. Warnock was born in Sumter County, Georgia, the son of Dr. Robert Warnock, who became a prominent physician in Inverness. The Warnock family came to Inverness in 1884. Starting his newspaper career as a printer in Floral City, Warnock came back to Inverness in 1890 to run the Citrus County Chronicle. Appointed as a deputy circuit clerk in 1897, Warnock became the youngest circuit clerk in the state of Florida upon his election to the office in 1900.<sup>10</sup>

The Masonic Temple of Citrus was a splendid three-story temple constructed in 1910 to replace an earlier 3-story wood temple that had burnt down. It cost \$17,285, making it the costliest building in the county. The imposing brick building was designed to house two storefronts on the first floor, five offices on the second floor, and the lodge room on the third. Wilbur B. Talley (1871-1956), a Mason and resident of Jacksonville and Lakeland, Florida, designed the building. Certain stipulations needed to be met by the architect hired. The imposing brick building needed to be positioned in such a way that the cornerstone was guaranteed to be on the lower northeast corner of the structure since this signified the new and the rising, just as an initiate to Masonry, new to the order and willing to learn and study, could rise to higher ranks in the order.<sup>11</sup> The temple room on the third floor needed to be oriented east to west because it was important that the building capture the rising southeast sun's rays.

The original storefronts were Halls Drug Store on the northwest corner of the building, E. C. May's Variety Store, and Lakeland Laundry on the northeast side. On the second floor was the original Inverness City Hall and the offices for Dr. George A. Dame and his

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<sup>9</sup> Citrus County Chronicle, "Old House was Once Church, May Have Been First School," 23 Apr 1964; Dunn, Back Home, 208.

<sup>10</sup> Francis P. Fleming, ed. Memoirs of Florida, Vol. II (Atlanta: The Southern Historical Association, 1902), 742.

<sup>11</sup> Dunn, Back Home, pp.212 & 216.

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brother Dr. Leland Dame; Dr. T. S. Henley (first dentist in the county); Attorney M. C. Scofield (later a state representative); and Dr. James Fredrick Miller (brought Citrus County through the flu epidemic of 1918).<sup>12</sup> The entire third floor was the Masonic Temple.

On June 20, 1910, a crowd of between 1,800 and 2,500 people were present during the laying of the cornerstone and the dedication of new Masonic Temple (Photo #27). Col. Irving E. Webster of Gainesville was the main speaker for the event and other presenters included State Attorney Edwin W. Davis of Ocala, Dr. James Fredrick Miller, and the local Cornet Band led by Professor F. G. Merry. After the ceremonies, the entire crowd picnicked on the grounds near W. H. Warnock's home. The attendance at the dedication was an early indication of how important the new Masonic Temple would be for the community. Plays, dances and events were soon held there. D. A. Smith painted a drop curtain. Advertising cards indicate the opening attracted a number of event sponsors, including G. I. Singleton, bank president of Citrus County Bank; the Inverness Drug Company; Story and Hiller, town blacksmiths; J. B. Smith (fishing and hunting lodge owner) and others. In 1922, new theater seats were purchased for the temple and the building was used as a movie theater.<sup>13</sup>

In 1913, the Inverness Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, the female Masonic organization, was reorganized and the list of Worthy Matrons and Worthy Patrons features a significant number of county founders and prominent citizens and their wives.<sup>14</sup> In 1915, the Inverness City Hall was located on the second floor of the Masonic Temple. The masons continued to utilize the building until 1965, when it was sold to Joseph Infantino and John Roscow.<sup>15</sup>

**ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT**  
**Commercial Style**

The Commercial Style includes a building type known as the two-part commercial block that was typical of small-scale commercial building construction in the United States from

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<sup>12</sup> Dunn, Back Home, p. 285.

<sup>13</sup> Dunn, Back Home, pp. 212 & 216.

<sup>14</sup> Dunn, Back Home, p. 218.

<sup>15</sup> Citrus County Courthouse Archives, Public Record Book 177, pp. 458-46, 1965.

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1850 until 1950. The facades of these buildings had clearly defined zones of use: retail plate glass storefronts with transoms on the first floor, and offices or apartments on the second and third floors with banks of sash windows. The buildings usually had an eclectic mix of historic style references and the ornamental elements included distinctive brickwork, stepped or sculpted parapets, and windows with groupings of sashes or artistic sashes. The historic reference most commonly used for the exterior of Commercial Style buildings was the Classical Revival Style. This style evolved from a renewed interest in the architectural forms of the ancient Greeks and Romans stemming from the World's Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago in 1893. Many of the best-known architects of the day designed buildings based on classical precedents for the exposition. Examples varied from monumental copies of Greek temples to smaller models that drew heavily from designs of Adam, Georgian, and early Classical Revival residences built in the United States in the eighteenth century.<sup>16</sup>

**Neo-Classical Style**

America experienced a revival in Classical architecture spurred by the World's Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago in 1893, and lasting till 1950. Many of the best known architects of the day designed buildings for the Exposition based on classical precedents. Examples varied from monumental copies of Greek temples to others that drew heavily from designs of Adam and Georgian buildings erected in America during the colonial and antebellum periods. The Exposition, which drew large crowds, helped make the style fashionable again. In Florida, Neo-Classical became a popular design for commercial, government, and public buildings. The application of the style to residences is less common

Characteristics of the style include a symmetrical façade with central entry with a balanced placement of windows. The façade is often dominated by a full height portico or porch with columns. Pediments were common features borrowed from ancient Greek construction. Most examples rise more than one story with a central-block and often included a symmetrical-extension plan. Commercial models often lend themselves to the Temple Front decorative nomenclature. Frequently dentils or modillions set in a wide frieze band accent the eaves beneath a broad cornice. Triglyphs were sometimes borrowed from the Doric order of Greek construction.

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<sup>16</sup> Longstreth, Buildings of Main Street, pp. 24-53.

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**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

Typical of the two-part commercial building type, the Masonic Temple is a rectangular, three-story building with storefronts on the first floor. The retail storefronts, though altered, still front the streetscape. The exterior of the second and third floors are covered in buff brick and contain banks of sash windows on all four sides that delineate the professional offices on the second floor. These are typical design features of two-part commercial blocks. The Masonic temple occupied the third floor. Designed with Neo-Classical elements, the Masonic Temple is symmetrical, with windows evenly placed on either side of the central main entrance and two-story pilasters, and aligned with the windows on the adjacent story. The wooden windows are original. The exterior contains the Classical elements of arched main entrance; keystones on the entrance and all façade windows; pilasters; capitals; broad entablature with dentils; a broad cornice with triglyph brackets; and a stepped parapet. The Masonic Temple is one of the best examples of the Commercial Style in the city, and a landmark in Inverness.

**Architect – Wilbur Burt Talley**

Wilbur Burt Talley (1871-1956) was the son of Joseph R. and Louisa Allen Talley. Wilbur's father was one of the pioneer citizens of Lakeland, Florida. As a contractor and builder, Joseph Talley built some of the most prominent residences and businesses of that period. When his family moved to Illinois, Wilbur Talley completed his education there and worked in construction in Georgia and North Carolina. In 1900, Wilbur Talley moved to Lakeland, Florida, and engaged in architectural work for six years until he relocated to Jacksonville, Florida, where he worked for sixteen years. It was during this period that Talley designed several projects in Inverness, including the original Citrus High School and the Masonic Temple of Citrus in the Classical Revival Style popular with Masonic Temples of that time. Talley was a prominent Freemason himself. He was the Worshipful Master of Southland F. and A. M., Eminent Commander of Lakeland Commandery, past High Priest of the Royal Arch Masons, past Patron of the Eastern Star and a Shriner.<sup>17</sup> In 1922, Wilbur Talley resided once again in Lakeland, Florida, where he was married to Flora, whom he married after the death of his first wife, Nellie Darnielle. He lived and worked in Lakeland until his death in 1956.

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<sup>17</sup> Hetherington, History of Polk County, p. 346.

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Talley became one of Florida's leading architects and he designed many of the state's most beautiful public buildings, schools, churches, and commercial structures. He also designed many fine private residences in the Riverside and Avondale areas of Jacksonville,<sup>18</sup> Munn Park in Lakeland, and throughout Lake Wales. His architectural designs ran the gamut of styles that were fashionable or popular during the early twentieth century, including the Romanesque, Gothic, Classical Revival and Prairie styles. The Sanford Grammar School, Merchant's Bank, Lake Wales Historic District, Munn Historic District, and Roosevelt Academy represent Talley's work in the National Register of Historic Places. His commissions also included large contracts in Key West, and Charleston, South Carolina. Talley was very prolific, successful, and a leader in his profession. He was one of the founders of the Florida Institute of Architects.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Wood, Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage, p. 13.

<sup>19</sup> Bailey, Florida Architecture, pp. 28, 197.

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INVERNESS, CITRUS COUNTY  
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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Lot 1 and the West 17 feet of lot 27 in block 101 less parcel 168 lying within City of Inverness, Florida

TOWN OF INVERNESS PB 1 PG 20 & PB 1 PG 36 LOT 1 & W 17 FT OF LOT 27 BLK 101 LESS PCL 168 LYING WITHIN FOL DESC BDRY: COM AT NAIL & CAP MARKING NE COR OF LOT 18 BLK 101 IN PB 1 PG 20, TH AL E BDRY OF SD BLK 101 (BEING ALSO EXISTING W'LY R/W LN OF APOPKA AVE A 100 FT PLATTED ST) N 0 DEG 26M 43S W 20.22 FT FOR POB, TH N 44 DEG 17M 38S W 20.52 FT TO BEG OF CURVE CONC SW'LY HAVING RAD OF 476 FT & BEING SUBT ENDED BY CHORD BEARIING OF N 81 DEG 27M 57S W, TH W'LY AL ARC OF SD CURVE THRU CTRL ANG OF 17 DEG 31M 37S 145.61 F T, TH S 89 DEG 46M 15S W 110.96 FT TO BEG OF CURVE CONC N'LY HAVING RAD OF 564 FT & BEING SUBT BY CHORD BEARING OF N 88 DEG 6M 23S W, TH W'LY AL ARC OF SD CURVE THRU CTRL ANG OF 4 DEG 15M 20S 41.89 FT, TH S 65 DEG 20M 43 S W 14.24 FT TO W BDRY OF SD BLK 101 (BEING ALSO EXISTING E'LY R/W LN FOR PINE AVE A 75 FT PLATTED ST), TH N 0 DEG 9M 30S W 105.48 FT, TH S 44 DEG 41M 21S E 15.60 FT TO BEG OF CURVE CONC N'LY HAVING RAD OF 476 FT & BEING SUBT ENDED BY CHORD BEARING OF S 87 DEG 35M 51S E, TH E'LY AL ARC OF SD CURVE THRU CTRL ANG OF 5 DEG 16M 24S 43.81 F T, TH N 89 DEG 46M 15S E 110.97 FT TO BEG OF CURVE CONC S'LY HAVING RAD OF 564 FT & BEING SUBT BY CHORD BEARING OF S 84 DEG 44M 33S E ,TH E'LY AL ARC OF SD CURVE THRU CTRL ANG OF 10 DEG 58M 26S 108.03 FT TO NE'LY BDRY OF SD BLK 101, TH S 47 DEG 40M 16S E 67.87 FT, TH AL E BDRY OF SD BLK 101 (BEING ALSO EXISTING W'LY R/W LN FOR APOPKA AVE) S 0 DEG 26M 43S E 68.62 FT TO POB DESC IN OR BK 2027 PG 1706

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The National Register boundary encompasses property historically associated with the Masonic Temple of Citrus. The boundary includes the building footprint and a small strip of property, 67'w x 11'd that at one time was the alley along the south elevation.

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DUNNELLON, CITRUS COUNTY,  
FLORIDA**

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST**

1. Masonic Lodge of Citrus, 111 West Main Street, Dunnellon
2. Citrus County, Florida
3. Unknown
4. 1925
5. Citrus County Archives
6. Street view of main façade, looking southwest
7. Photo #1 of 22

1. Masonic Lodge of Citrus, 111 West Main Street, Dunnellon
2. Citrus County, Florida
3. Sophia Diaz-Fonseca
4. 2009
5. Diaz-Fonseca
6. North façade, looking southwest
7. Photo #2 of 22

Items 1,2,3, and 5 are the same for the remaining images.

4. 2007
6. Center of north façade, looking south
7. Photo #3 of 22

4. 2009
6. Window on west elevation, looking east
7. Photo #4 of 22

4. 2009
6. Metal cornice with brackets, looking northeast
7. Photo #5 of 22

4. 2008
6. West and north elevations, looking southeast
7. Photo #6 of 22

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- 4. 2009
- 6. West elevation entrance, looking east
- 7. Photo #7 of 22
  
- 4. 2009
- 6. South elevation, looking north
- 7. Photo #8 of 22
  
- 4. 1925
- 5. Citrus County Archives
- 6. South and west elevations with alley, looking northeast
- 7. Photo #9 of 22
  
- 4. 2009
- 6. Window in south elevation, looking north
- 7. Photo #10 of 22
  
- 4. 2007
- 6. East elevation, looking west
- 7. Photo #11 of 22
  
- 4. 2007
- 6. Storefront entry, looking south
- 7. Photo #12 of 22
  
- 4. 2007
- 6. First floor office, looking northeast
- 7. Photo #13 of 22
  
- 4. 2007
- 6. Staircase off of west entrance, looking west
- 7. Photo #14 of 22

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- 4. 2008
- 6. Main staircase off of north entrance, looking south
- 7. Photo #15 of 22

- 4. 2008
- 6. Second floor hallway, looking north
- 7. Photo #16 of 22

- 4. 2009
- 6. Second floor office, looking east
- 7. Photo #17 of 22

- 4. 2009
- 6. Window at south staircase, looking south
- 7. Photo #18 of 22

- 4. 2009
- 6. Third floor central ballroom, looking north
- 7. Photo #19 of 22

- 4. 2008
- 6. Double doors at third floor hallway, looking north
- 7. Photo #20 of 22

- 4. 2009
- 6. Third floor hall, looking west
- 7. Photo #21 of 22

- 4. 2008
- 6. Emergency staircase, third floor, looking east
- 7. Photo #22 of 22

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MASONIC TEMPLE OF CITRUS  
LODGE #118, F & AM  
Inverness, Citrus County, Florida

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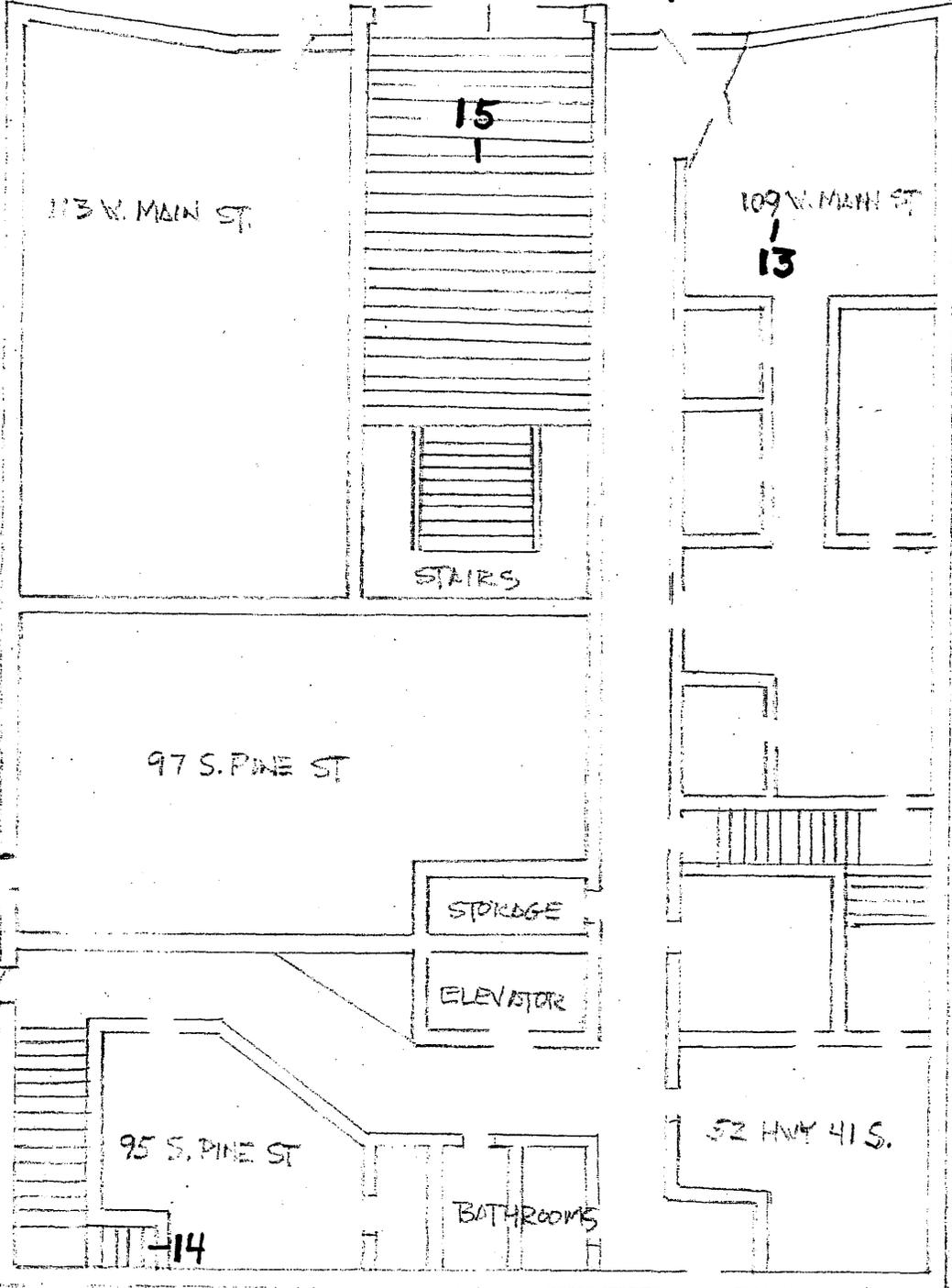
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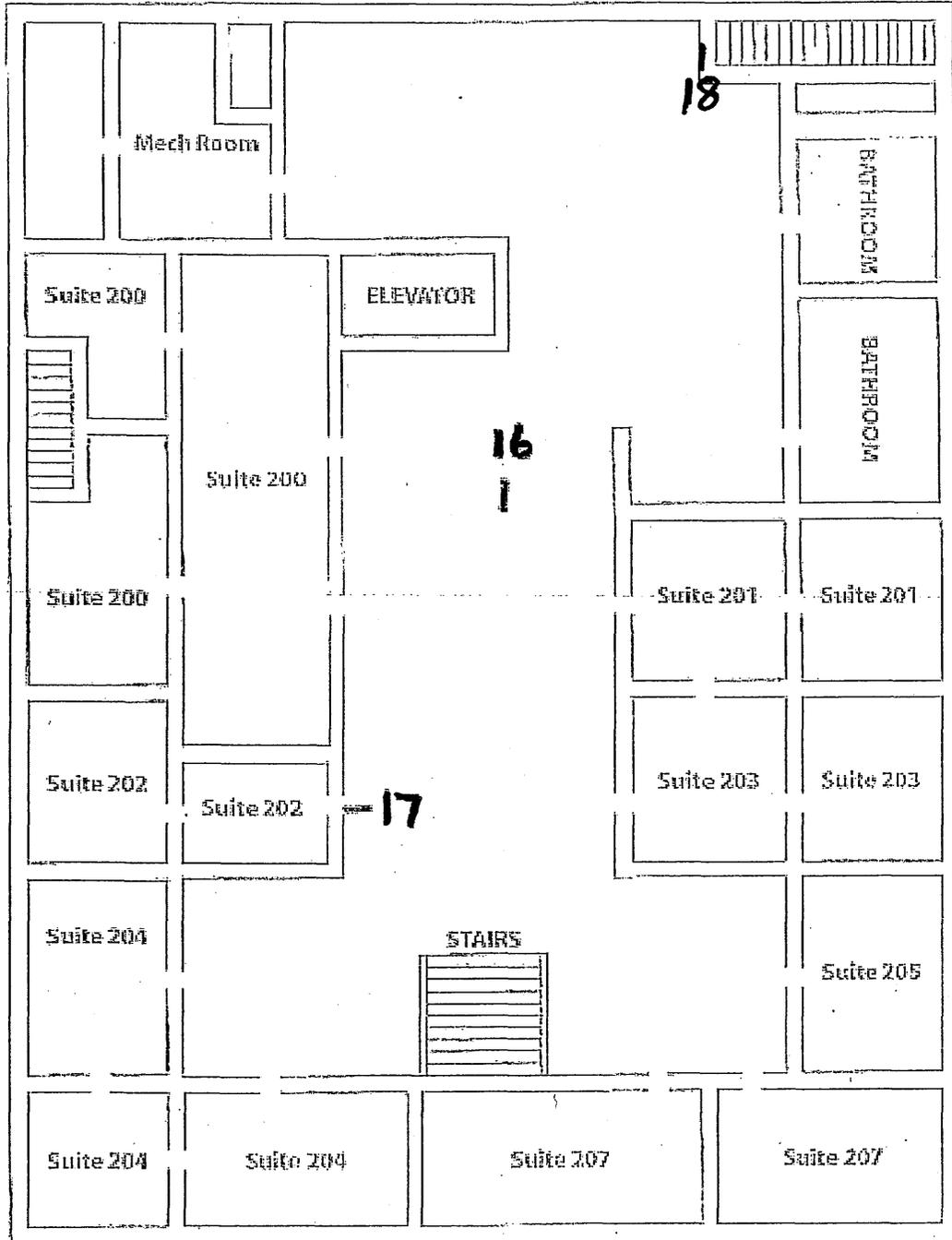
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**MASONIC TEMPLE OF CITRUS  
 LODGE #118, F & AM  
 Inverness, Citrus County, Florida**

111 West Main Street • Inverness, Florida 34450 • Tel 352-344-8640



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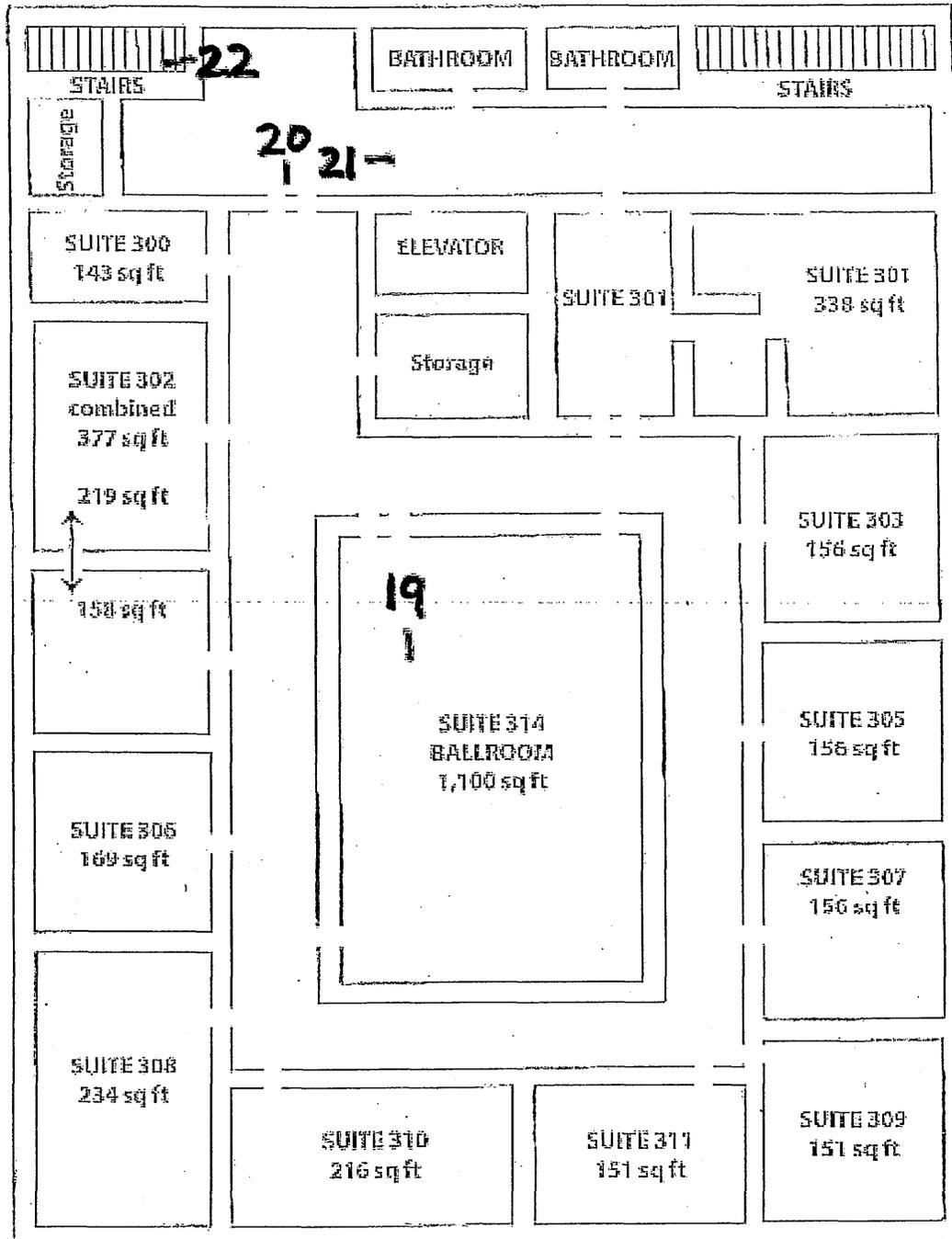
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masoniccenter@tampabay.rr.com

**MASONIC TEMPLE OF CITRUS  
 LODGE #118, F & AM  
 Inverness, Citrus County, Florida**

111 West Main Street • Inverness, Florida 34450 • Tel 352-344-8940

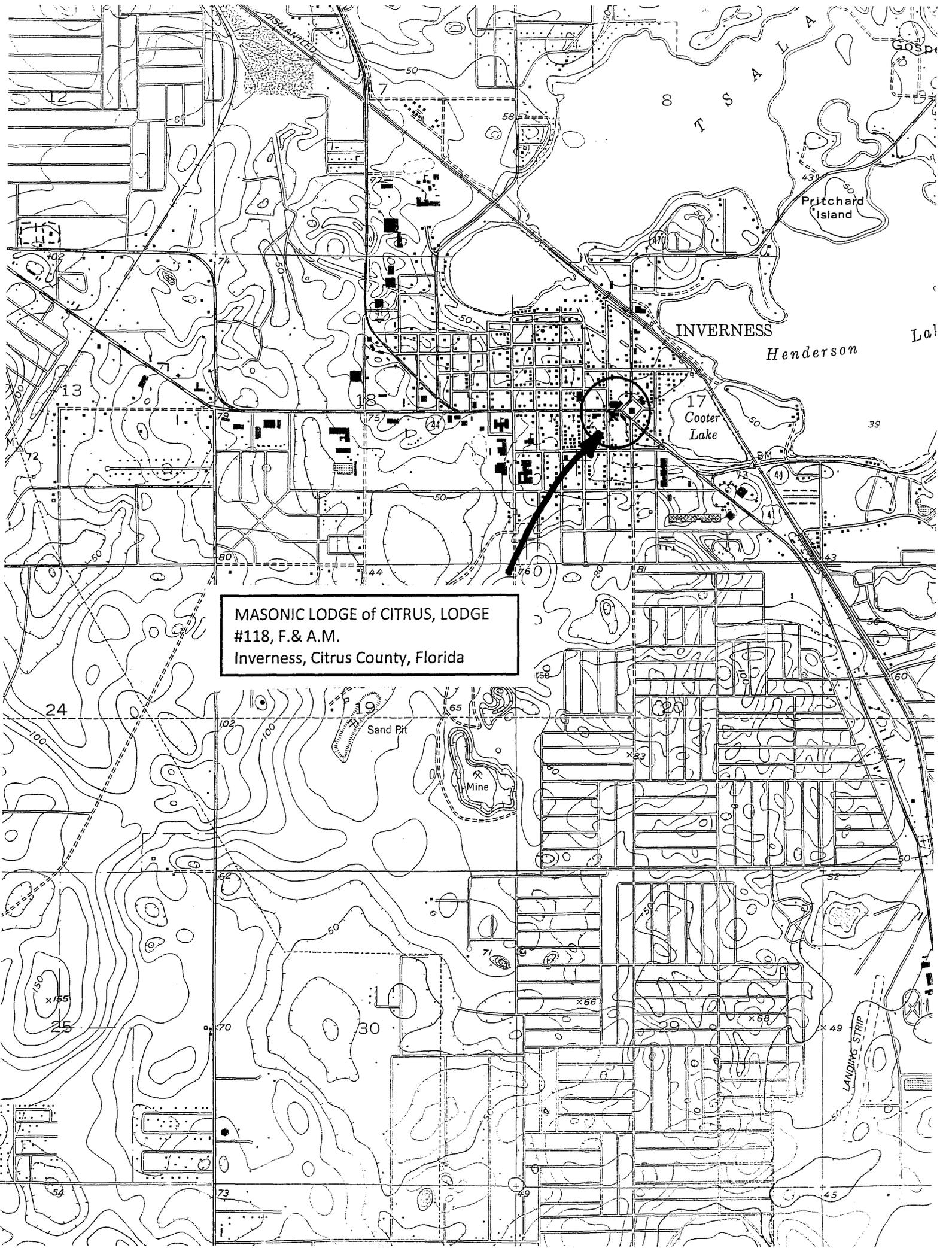


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**Third Floor**

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masoniccenter@tampabayrr.com



MASONIC LODGE of CITRUS, LODGE  
#118, F. & A. M.  
Inverness, Citrus County, Florida

INVERNESS

Henderson

17  
Cooter  
Lake

Pritchard  
Island

Sand Pit

Mine

LANDING STRIP

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Lal

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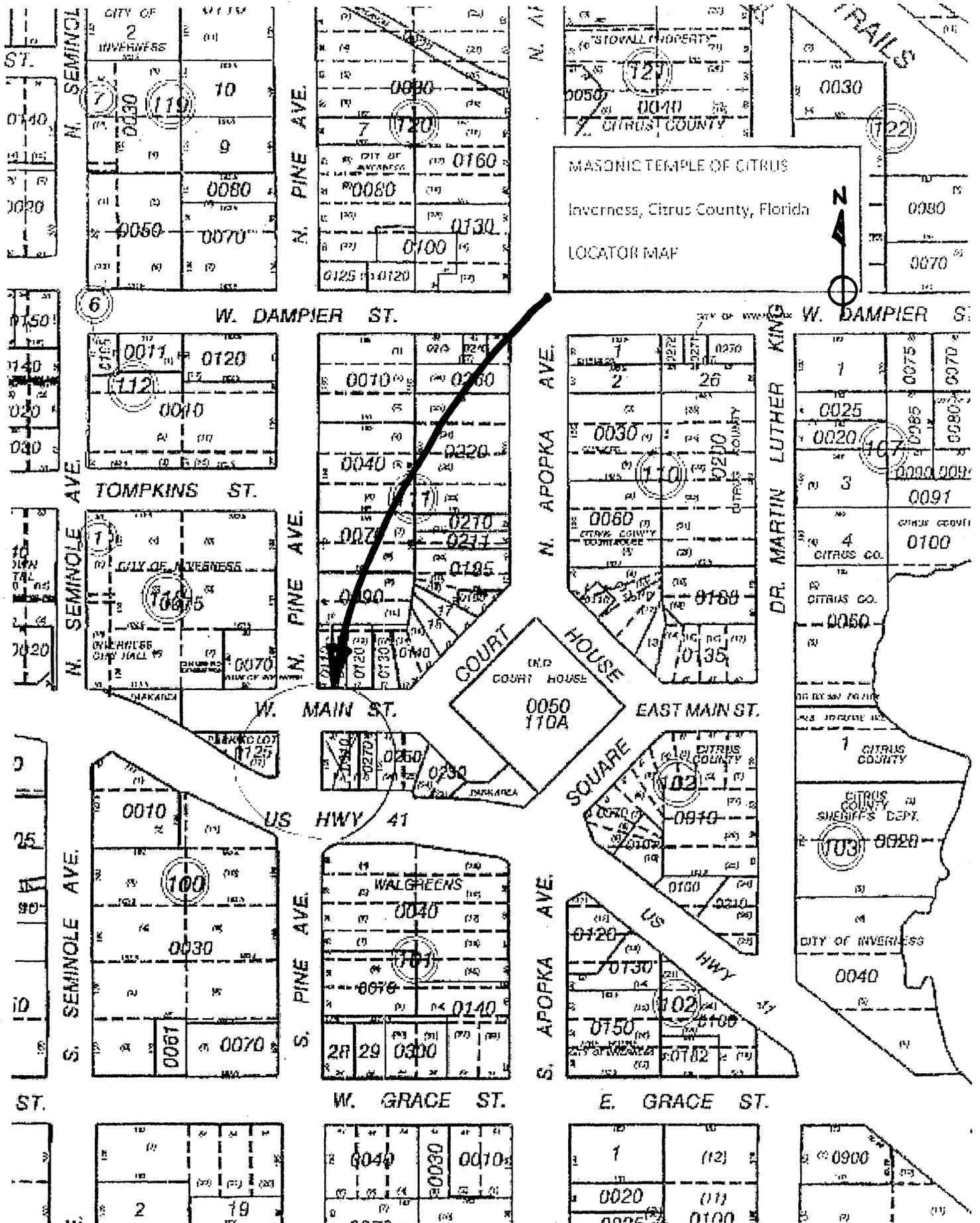
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Parcel Map # 171920, 2005 Roll, Printed 07/11/2006

Citrus County Property Appraiser