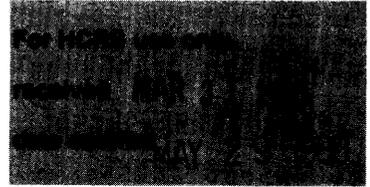


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



**1. Name**

historic Masonic Temple

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 503 South Main Street        not for publication

city, town Aberdeen        vicinity of        congressional district First

state South Dakota code 46 county Brown code 013

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Fraternal

**4. Owner of Property**

name Masonic Temple Association

street & number 503 South Main Street

city, town Aberdeen        vicinity of        state South Dakota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Brown County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Aberdeen        vicinity of        state South Dakota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title South Dakota Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?        yes        no

date June, 1978        federal        state        county  local

depository for survey records Historical Preservation Center

city, town Vermillion        vicinity of        state South Dakota

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

This fraternal lodge is a three-story structure combining the Italian Villa, Moorish, and Romanesque Revival styles. The rounded arches of the third floor and the stuccoed surface give the buildings its eastern or Mediterranean character, an image to the Freemasons who traced their origins to the ancient Near East.

The building is rectangular in shape with a projecting first and second story on the front facade. Raised above ground level, the entrance has wide stairs, double doors with a single glass panel, and is enclosed within a classical arched opening. Windows on the front facade are placed in groups of four, creating a horizontal emphasis, which is reinforced by the projecting belt courses between floors. The large windows are double hung, have 4/4 lights and a lug sill, while two smaller 4/4 windows flank the entrance. Three pedimented semicircular arches decorate the third floor and are separated by projecting diamond shape panels. Within the larger arch are two separate Gothic sashes. Topped by a hipped-roof, the building has small brackets under the eaves. The north facade is composed of five bays, each enclosed within a vertical, arched, strip running from roof to foundation. Blind panels replace windows in various bay sections. A slight projecting band separates the building from its foundation.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates**                      1899                      **Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Significant in the areas of architecture and social organization, the Aberdeen Masonic Temple was built in 1899. Fraternal lodges have long contributed much of the most exotic and sophisticated architecture to American cities and small towns. The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry was perhaps the leader in promoting architectural splendor in rural areas in America between the 1870's and the 1930's. The Aberdeen Temple is a nice example of the taste for the oriental, which has distinguished these lodge buildings. Combining Moorish, Romanesque Revival and Italian Villa styles, the structure is believed to have been the first temple erected solely for Masonic purposes west—No! of the Mississippi River. A descendent of the first South Dakota Masonic Lodge organized in 1862, this lodge hosted the twenty-sixth Annual Communication one year after the hall was completed. Among the features which add to its significance as a local architectural landmark are the free use of large scale details, such as the flat bands of contrasting color and texture in the window arches of the third floor, and the pronounced, yet two-dimensional, entrance projecting into the space of the second story. The large surface area of the side facades is brought into balance with the bold, unifying window treatment of all the three floors.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

The First 100 Years of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of South Dakota, 1875-1975.  
Aberdeen Weekly News, June 14, 1800.

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre  
Quadrangle name Aberdeen East, S.D.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	4	5	4	0	0	6	0	5	0	3	3	9	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is located on Lots 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Block 30, First Addition of Aberdeen (see attached map).

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

Technical Editing:

name/title Historical Preservation Staff Carolyn Torma

organization Historical Preservation Center date 1979

street & number U.S.D. Alumni House telephone 605/677/5314

city or town Vermillion state South Dakota

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *John J. Little*

title Director, Historical Preservation Center date 3/11/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>John W. Ray Luce</i>	date 5/29/80
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <i>William H. Crabman</i>	date 5-6-80
Chief of Registration	