




United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

JUL 8 2010

Notice to file:

This property has been automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This is due to the fact that the publication of our Federal Register Notice: "National Register of Historic Places: Pending Nominations and Other Actions" was delayed beyond our control to the point where the mandated 15 day public comment period ended after our required 45 day time frame to act on the nomination. If the 45th day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day. The nomination is technically adequate and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation, and thus, automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.


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

1. Name of Property

historic name Osceola Masonic Block

other names/site number Osceola Lodge No. 77 AF & AM; Iowa State Bank

2. Location

street & number 101-103 South Main Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Osceola [N/A] vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Clarke code 039 zip code 50213

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 A. Mathews, DSHPO May 18, 2010
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:)

Edson Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
JUL 6 2010

Osceola Masonic Block
Name of Property

Clarke County, 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	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</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.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/Financial Institution

COMMERCE/Hardware

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY REVIVALS:

Neo-Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Limestone

walls BRICK

STUCCO

roof SYNTHETIC/Rubber

other STONE/Limestone

TERRA COTTA

Narrative Description

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

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Continuation Sheet**

Osceola Masonic Block
Clarke County, IA

Section number 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The Osceola Masonic Block (1872) at 101-103 South Main Street, anchors the north end of the east side of the Public Square. (Figure 1, page 13) Osceola is approximately 40 miles south of Des Moines. It is the county seat of Clarke County, which is the second county north of Missouri and the fifth county east of the Missouri River. The Public Square is surrounded by commercial buildings, with the Clarke County Courthouse (1952) in the center of the Square. (Figure 2, page 14) Main Street is the route of U.S. Highway 69 through Osceola. Another major transportation route through the community is the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad located one and one-half blocks north of the Square.

Exterior:

The Masonic Block is a simplified Italianate style three story stucco-covered brick structure measuring 40 feet on the Main Street side by 80 feet along Washington Street, with the primary façade facing west on Main. The building rests on a limestone foundation with stone watertable and is capped by a flat roof which slopes gently to the rear (east). Three brick interior chimneys are located along the north elevation, and a single exterior chimney is located at the south end of the rear (east) wall.

The Main Street façade features two individual storefronts, and a third storefront is located at the east end of the Washington elevation. The two Main Street storefronts have always housed two separate businesses with separate owners, and each has been remodeled independently of the other. For this reason they do not share common design elements. Originally both storefronts featured cast-iron fronts with central double door entrances flanked by glass display windows. The entrance on Washington retains the original round-arched store front. It features a central entrance that is reached by a set of concrete steps. The window and door openings have been partially closed by wood panels, but could be restored. Entrance to the upper floors is gained through a large round-arched opening next to this north storefront. This upper level entry originally featured double doors with a large four light lunette above, but the doors have been replaced by a single narrow door, with wood paneled in-fill on the side and top. Broad concrete steps lead to this door. The stone door sills for both the small storefront and upper story entrance are part of the limestone watertable that extends along the entire north wall. A covered entrance to the basement is located on the north elevation, just around the corner from the Main Street storefronts.

The upper levels of the building retain a high degree of integrity on both the primary and secondary facades. Brick pilasters with simple brick capitals extend from the top of the first floor storefronts to a brick patterned frieze. These pilasters divide the walls into specific areas, reflecting room arrangements on the interior. Above this frieze is a corbelled brick cornice with brick patterned identification pediment centered on the west elevation. In the center of this pediment is a round-arched recessed panel containing two of the best known Masonic emblems: a compass and square. (Figure 3, page 15) Although early Sanborn maps show a metal cornice on the primary (west) façade, none of the early images show such a cornice.

Tall, slender round-arched Italianate windows on both the second and third floors feature original 4 over 4 double hung wooden sash. Those on the third floor are approximately six inches taller, indicating that the third floor has special significance. Horseshoe-shaped terracotta hoodmolds with keystones cap the windows, with cast sills below. The decorative pattern on the hoodmolds is interesting as it appears to be a rectilinear chain link design with small rosettes in the small links. A modified form of the chain link pattern is also used for the keystone. On the primary (west) façade, three pilasters relate to the two distinct storefronts below, with one in the center and one on each corner. This creates two

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recessed panels, each containing three windows on the second and third floors that are symmetrically arranged over the original storefront configuration with central entrances. Seven small metal star shaped anchor irons are located across the façade between the second and third floors.

The north elevation features brick pilasters at the corners plus four pilasters that divide the wall into five panels, each containing windows. The window pattern on each floor, as dictated by the pilasters, from east to west, is three-one-two-two-two. The three windows at the east end align with the triple arched storefront at street level. The single windows in the next panel relate to the broad round-arched entrance to the upper levels. The next three sets of two windows per floor provide a simple tri-partite division of the rest of the long wall. Today there are three chimneys along the north elevation, but originally there appear to have been four along the side, and a taller one at each corner. A covered entrance to the basement level is found at the west end of this north elevation.

The rear (east) elevation is a typical back of a building with no embellishments. Fenestration includes four tall slender segmental arched doors and one square window that does not appear to be original. On the second floor there are two doors and the window, all of which have been covered with plywood panels. The third floor has doorways at the southeast and northeast corners with no windows in between. A metal fire escape zigzags across the elevation, serving one doorway on the second floor and one door on the third floor. A small rectangular box-type room has been added at the southeast corner. This has a window on the east and double doors on the north elevation. The function of this room has not been determined, but it may have something to do with heating and cooling.

Historic images illustrate the evolution of the Masonic Block. A lithograph from ca. 1890 (Figure 4, page 16) shows the building as originally designed with a denticulated brick-patterned cornice with rectangular brick pediment and square corner turrets on the primary (Main Street) elevation. A postcard with a 1907 postmark (Figure 5, page 17) also shows the Main Street façade with rectangular pediment and turrets. However, a 1909 postmarked postcard (Figure 6, page 17) shows that the pediment and turrets have been removed. It also shows the contrast between the light-colored windows sills and the red brick walls. In this postcard the south (hardware store) storefront is shown with large glass display windows rather than the smaller panes seen in the lithograph.

The first documented remodeling took place in 1915 when the north storefront (owned and occupied by the Iowa State Bank) received a make-over in the Neo-classical tradition that was used for many bank facades at that time. The entrance was moved from the center to the right side and given a surround of cream-colored terra cotta with a pediment above the doorway, giving the appearance of a Greek/Roman temple. A large tri-partite window was centered on the remainder of the storefront. Terra cotta was used on both the primary and secondary facades, creating an elaborate cornice composed of several classical motifs including dentils and bead and reel. Rectangular terra cotta quoins mark the corners on the façade and the pilasters between three sets of windows along the north elevation. Four tall slender rectangular windows with terra cotta sills and a door were created along the side (north) wall, allowing more light into the bank and providing a side entrance. The south storefront was also changed at this time, with a prism glass transom being installed above the plate glass display windows. The biggest change made in 1915 was the application of half inch thick stucco to all three of the exterior walls (west, north and east). This stucco is not smooth and scored to look like ashlar blocks of stone, but has a pebble-dash texture. This was applied not only to the brick surfaces, but also to the window sills on the second and third floors. A photograph from the *Osceola Sentinel* (Figure 7, page 18) shows this remodeled exterior. Note that the window sills are no longer sharply delineated.

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The present (2010) storefronts exhibit yet another configuration. The north storefront now features square enameled panels across the top and down the sides, with brick and glass infill and a central aluminum entrance door. A sign covers the so-called transom area, leaving the terra cotta frieze intact, but painted. This remodeling was done circa 1950 when the bank was replaced by a drug store. The south storefront also has a sign at the transom level, with three large display windows and the entrance off-set to the right. Neither storefront has any relation to the original design.

Interior:

The basement (Figure 8, page 19) appears to be relatively unaltered, with the major change being the installation of several structural metal I-beams. The furnace is centrally located on the south side of the main dividing wall. The first floor (Figure 9, page 20) is the most altered. The floor plan shows what appear to be original walls, but there are currently several walls that are of recent construction that are reversible. The ceiling has been dropped in both halves, and floors are carpeted. From 1872 until 1949 a bank occupied the north storefront. It was only fifty feet deep, thereby allowing the hardware store in the south half to extend across the full width of the building in back and make use of the storefront on Washington. This gave the hardware store the L-shaped floor plan that is shown on Sanborn maps. It is known that when the exterior was remodeled in 1915, interior changes were also made in the bank's north half (*Osceola Sentinel*, July 23, 1914, p 1, c 2) but these are no longer visible.

The upper stories are reached by the broad (approximately six foot) wooden staircase that rises from the entrance on the north elevation. The upper floors have retained a high degree of integrity and speak to the original functions of both levels. At the top of the stairs on the second floor (Figure 10, page 21) a broad hallway runs due west, dividing the north and south halves of the building. The second floor was designed to house offices. The north half contains two large rooms: the one at the northwest corner is approximately nineteen by twenty feet and has three windows on the west side and two on the north. The room directly east of this measures approximately thirty-one by twenty feet and has four windows along the north wall. This larger room has two doors opening into the hallway, a single door into the room at the northwest corner, and a door into a very small room (closet?) located above the stairway. On the south side of the central hallway, the first door enters into two small rooms that housed the water closet. There is a large, approximately thirty-six by thirteen feet, room that has two windows on the west (façade) end. A door opens from the east end of this room into the water closet. A narrow (five foot plus) area is found between the two front (west) rooms. Each of these front rooms has a door into this small area. It contains two small rooms (closets?), one at the west with a window measures approximately five by ten feet, and the smaller at the east measures almost five by six feet. Returning to the top of the stairs, the east end of the building has undergone some remodeling, but it appears that there were originally two rooms, the one accessed from the hall is approximately twenty-two by forty feet with two windows on the east wall. The second room is entered from the first and measures twenty-two by fourteen feet with one window on the east wall, and three on the north. Wood flooring is found throughout the second floor. Walls are plaster on lath, with beadboard wainscoting in the hallway and rooms. The wood doors have two panels in the bottom half and a large window with opaque glass in the top. Transoms are found above all hallway doors. All woodwork has been painted. Ceilings are original, but a dropped ceiling has been installed in the hallway.

Access to the third floor (Figure 11, page 22) is gained by a very wide set of five steps on the east side of the second floor. A curved wall along the right side of the steps leads the eye to these steps. At the broad landing the steps turn 90° to the east, and narrower stairs lead up to a large foyer/vestibule at the southeast corner of the building. Two windows on the east provide light for this area. Three doors open off of this foyer. One, directly north of the top of the stairs, leads into a room at the northeast corner

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of the building measuring approximately fourteen by twenty-two feet. This room has three windows along the north wall, and two more doors, one on the west that opens into the lodge hall, and one on the south that opens into a small center room that may have been used for part of the Masonic ritual. This center room measures approximately thirteen by fourteen feet, has a curved wall at the southeast corner, and two more doors, one opening into the lodge hall, and the other on the south opening into the foyer/vestibule. The third door opening off the foyer is on the west end and opens into a full kitchen (approximately fourteen feet square), then into a long narrow (approximately forty-four by fourteen feet) room that runs along the south wall of the building. There are two tall windows located on the west wall and two sets of double doors open north into the main lodge hall. The lodge hall measures approximately fifty-eight by twenty-seven feet. There are four windows along the west wall, and seven along the north. The east end of the room has a symmetrical arrangement with a door on each side of a raised dais for the Worthy Master. A raised platform extending along the other three walls may originally have had fixed seating. The wood flooring found throughout the third floor has been covered with asphalt tile in the lodge hall. Like the second floor, walls and ceilings are plaster on lath, woodwork has been painted, and transoms are found above the doors. The lodge hall features an elaborate metal cornice and three pendant lights with medallions. The center light is larger and more elaborate than those on the ends.

Integrity:

The Osceola Masonic Block is a good example of a nineteenth century Italianate style building that was "modernized" through the addition of terra cotta design elements and stucco-covered exterior to create a Neo-classical design more in keeping with its use as a bank. The location and setting remain unchanged as it continues to anchor the northeast corner of the Square. Its association with both the Masonic Lodge and the institution of banking are highly visible on the Main Street façade. The overall design, feeling, workmanship and architectural details demonstrate both periods of significance for the building: the elegant terra cotta hoodmolds and arcaded storefront of the 1872 Italianate design, and the terra cotta quoins and cornice of the 1915 Neo-Classical remodeling.

The recent changes to the Main Street storefronts and interiors are typical and are not considered to be an impediment to listing. The integrity level of the second and third floor interior remains high, though both floors have suffered from deterioration due to vacancy. A number of the upper story windows are now filled with plywood panels. This has been done to protect the original wooden windows which the present owners intend to repair.

The integrity of the exterior was altered by the application of stucco when the bank façade was given the Neo-classical treatment in 1915. This alteration falls within the period of significance and is not considered intrusive because the bank was the original owner/occupant of the north half of the main level and remained in this location until after World War II. The building has had this stucco exterior for two-thirds of its existence, and the stucco has become a character defining element of the Masonic Block.

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.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1872-1949

Significant Dates

1872

1915

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

King, O.J.

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Masonic Block (1872) is a major landmark on the Osceola Public Square and is locally significant under Criterion A for the role it played in the social life of Osceola in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and as the long-time home of an Osceola banking institution. It has local Criterion C significance as a good example of commercial Italianate design from the 1870s. The period of significance is 1872 to 1949, beginning with construction of the building, and ending with the last year that it housed both of the original occupants.

Criterion A:

The 1851 plat of Osceola included a five acre Public Square with plans for commercial development around this Square. The first town lots were sold in 1851 and the first courthouse was built in the center of the square in 1854. By the end of the Civil War Osceola had a population of 980 who were served by nine dry goods stores, six groceries, six physicians, six lawyers plus assorted other businesses. (Hair, p 125) Both the Odd Fellows and Masons had established lodges, and several churches had built buildings. In 1868 the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad reached Osceola in 1868.

An undated 1871 article from the *Osceola Republican* said

The plans and specifications for the new building on the northeast corner, prepared by O.J. King, Esq., Architect, have been received and adopted by Burrows, Cowles & Kennedy. The basement is divided into four business rooms and two cellars. First floor embraces a Banking room and an office on the corner 50 feet deep and a store room extending in an L shape around the Bank, 100 feet in length of counter and shelving. West and north fronts. The second floor is divided into 7 offices. The third floor if adopted by the Masons and Odd Fellows or either society alone, will include the full size of the building 80 x 40. The building will be put under contract at an early day, and will include only the basement, first and second floors unless the Masonic bodies or other society see proper to put on the 3rd story at their own expense in which event they would own the hall. (Reprinted in the *Osceola Sentinel Centennial Edition: 1851-1951*, Section 3, p 4)

From this article it is apparent that the first two floors were being constructed by Burrows, Cowles, and Kennedy to provide space for the bank owned by Burrows and Cowles, retail space in the south half (perhaps for Kennedy) and rental space on the second floor.

A.H. Burrows was an attorney who arrived in Osceola in 1857. He served as an early Clerk of Court, and in 1868 he established a private banking institution. The following year (1869) he was joined in the bank by a young newcomer to the community, George H. Cowles. In the Summer of 1873 Burrows "retired from active business life due to ill health.... To his untiring energy and zeal Osceola is indebted for the foundation of its prosperity, and the magnificent brick block on the northeast corner of the public square is but one of the monuments to his industry." (1886, *History of Clarke County, Iowa*, p 50) Due to a lack of newspapers from the period, the name of the bank established by Burrows has not been determined. The 1875 *Andreas Atlas* mentioned two banks, First National Bank of Osceola which was established by H.S. Sigler in 1868 and changed its name in 1871, and the Osceola Bank, described as "a private bank owned by George H. Cowles. It was established in 1869." (Andreas, p 505) From this

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statement it seems that the bank in the new brick building was probably the one known as the Osceola Bank.

During the 1880s and 1890s there were only two banks in Osceola: the bank built for Burrows and Cowles, and a bank on the south side of the Square, possibly First National. (Sanborn Maps, 1886, 1893, and 1899) In 1907 and 1913 the Sanborn Maps show three banks: two on the east side of the Square (including the Burrows-Cowles Bank) and one on the SE corner of the Square. The bank on the SE corner was gone by 1926. In 1915 the bank in the Masonic Block was identified as the Iowa State Bank, but no other information has been located until 1934 when it was the Osceola branch of the Decatur County State Bank. That bank closed in late 1934, and the Clarke County Savings Bank opened in January 1935 in the same location. The 1936 Sanborn Map shows this as the only bank in town. Clarke County Savings remained at that site until 1949 when the bank and Osceola businessman Richard Robinson swapped buildings. This allowed Robinson Drug to be in the corner building, while the bank was half a block south.

The bank (under all the various names) also owned the second story of the building until 1918 when the north one-half was sold to the bank vice president. In 1925 the other half was sold to a different owner, and, in 1927 the entire second floor again came under a single owner. Second floor tenants appear to have been law and other professional offices. The second floor was purchased by the Davis-Pence Post #69 of the American Legion in 1949.

Osceola Lodge #77 AF&AM (Ancient Free & Accepted Masons) was chartered on June 14, 1856, just twelve years after the formation of the Grand Lodge of Iowa in Iowa City. Thus, like so many Iowa towns, the community and the Masonic lodge "grew up" simultaneously. The lodge appears to have been housed in the upper level of several buildings around the Square before the opportunity arrived to build its own space above a new downtown building in 1872.

The story of the new Masonic Lodge hall can be read in the deed signed and filed on May 31, 1872 in the Clarke County Recorder's office. In a greatly simplified form the deed said that the owners of Lot 2, Block 13 in the town of Osceola were A.H. Burrows and his wife Eliza, George H. Cowles and his wife Alice, E.R. Kennedy and his wife Martha, and W.G. Kennedy and his wife Catherine. They sold the right to construct a third floor above the two story brick building that they were planning to build to Osceola Lodge Number Seventy-Seven of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons for \$1 with the specification that the Masons and/or Odd Fellows would construct a third story for their meeting hall. This third story was to be in compliance with the plans drawn by O.J. King, the architect and contractor for the first two floors. Burrows et al were to be responsible for the care and maintenance of the foundation, first two floors, and the roof. The Masons were provided access to their floor via the entrance and staircase on the north side of the building which led up to the second floor where the Masons' stairs began.

The Masonic Lodge put their stamp on the third floor even before the building was occupied. The sixteen third floor windows that open onto Main and Washington streets were designed to be a few inches taller than those on the second level, indicating that the third floor housed a special business or activity. In addition, rather than an identification pediment with a building name (e.g. "Osceola Savings Bank") and date, a simple metal round-arched panel was inset in the center of the brick patterned cornice. This panel contained the most identifiable symbol of Freemasonry, the Square and Compass. (Figure 7, p 19) This

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Masonic emblem ensured that the building would be locally referred to as the Masonic Block or The Temple.

In 1880 the Masons agreed to lease the lodge facilities to other Osceola Masonic organizations for an annual fee of \$950 to cover their prorated share of lights and fuel. The Constantine Commandary #24 KT (Knights Templar) used the facility on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, and the Pentalpha Chapter #63 RAM (Royal Arch Masonry) met each Monday. (Lease signed and dated April 21, 1880) It is interesting to note here, that there did not seem to be a similar lease arrangement with other branches of the Masonic organization such as the Order of Eastern Star, Rainbow Girls, or Demolay. Since these organizations were composed not of Masons, but of members of their family, use of the lodge hall may have been handled in a different manner. By 1886 Lodge # 77 had grown to 144 members. (1886 History of Clarke County, Iowa, p 520) The Lodge not only hosted meetings and Masonic activities for its members, it was available for use by the members for special occasions, such as weddings, receptions, and even the annual Fireman's Balls. *The Osceola Sentinel* featured a photo of The Masonic Block on the front page on December 7, 1916 to accompany an article about a special event. Lodge #77 played host to visitors from fifteen neighboring lodges, with afternoon sessions followed by "a splendid dinner."

Minutes from the meetings of Osceola Lodge #77 AF & AM over the years show a deep commitment to members of the Masonic family in particular. In 1920 the lodge agreed to send \$1.00 per member to the Washington Monument fund. Several times in the 1920s there was a note of money being sent from the Charity Fund to the widow of one of their long-time members, and in 1942 it was agreed that the annual dues would be remitted for members serving in the armed forces. The most visible of the local Masonic activities was the ritual of laying the cornerstone for public buildings. Lodge #77 provided this service, with "due ceremony" for the new Clarke County Courthouse in 1892 (and again in 1956 for the present building), for the Post Office in 1935, and for several new schools from the 1950s through the 1990s.

Like many fraternal organizations in this country, Freemasonry during the past fifty years has seen declining membership in all of the branches. In May 1963 Osceola Lodge #77 AF & AM sold the third floor to the Davis-Pence Post #69, American Legion, thereby giving the Legion ownership of both the second and third floors. For the first time in 91 years no part of the building was owned by the bank or the Masons. The Masons constructed a new, single story building on a lot just east of the old building which continues in use today.

While there is currently a renewed interest in Freemasonry and its clandestine history, it is important to remember that the Masons provided much needed community services at a time when there was no social "safety net." The Masons have a history of founding orphanages, homes for widows and the aged, and the Shriners Hospitals for children. ("History of Freemasonry," www.iowamasons.com)

Criterion C:

The Osceola Masonic Block (1872) is a good example of the Italianate style used for a commercial building in the 1870s. The local newspaper noted that the building had been designed by O.J. King, Esq., Architect. While neither Wesley Shank nor Alan Schroder included King in their books on 19th

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and 20th century architects in Iowa, a little information is known about King. He was a well-known area builder who also designed houses and buildings, and who was accorded a certain deference because of his skill. From 1880 on he was known as an architect both in southwest Iowa and in the Omaha area. The three story brick Masonic double storefront building exhibits three of the major stylistic elements of the Italianate style: tall slender windows with decorative hoodmolds, a simple brick patterned cornice, and a round-arched storefront on the north elevation. (Figure 8, page 20) The tall slender round-arched windows are capped by horseshoe-shaped hoods of terra cotta. This shape of window and hoodmold was very popular in the 1870s and can be seen in county seat towns across the state of Iowa. These hoods are a good example of the changes that had been brought about by the arrival of the railroad. Building materials could be ordered from catalogs and easily shipped hundreds of miles to adorn a fine new commercial building in "the west." In most cases the hood molds are cast stone or metal. The use of terra cotta on the Masonic Block is somewhat unusual, however, the Cowles Residence in Osceola, NRHP, also has terra cotta hoodmolds. The design on these terra cotta hoods on the Masonic Block is a rectilinear chain-like pattern with small rosettes, differing greatly from the foliated patterns found on most Italianate buildings. No source has been identified for these particular hood molds. The use of a simple brick patterned cornice instead of a more elaborate pressed metal cornice was fairly common in smaller county seats. Even the largest and most impressive brick business blocks often lacked metal cornices. This may have been due to the proficiency of a local mason(s) as much as a desire to save money. The buildings around the Albia Square (NRHP) exemplify this preference for brick patterned cornices. This brick patterned cornice extends not only across the primary façade, but around the corner the full length of the secondary elevation. The rectangular brick pediment above the Masonic emblem and the square turrets on each corner of the Main Street façade which were removed in the early 20th century would originally have given the building a stronger vertical emphasis. It is interesting to note that, although the side entrance and tall slender Italianate windows are all round-arched, the two Main Street storefronts were not. This may have been a statement on King's part that this was a "modern" building, not to be confused with earlier business buildings from the 1860s that featured round-arched, or arcaded, storefronts with the arches above the entrance and display windows springing from iron columns.

The front page of *The Osceola Sentinel*, December 30, 1915 carried a two column photo of the Masonic Block with a headline "A Splendid Improvement." (Figure 9, page 21) The story below the photograph said

Not in many years has the City of Osceola gained so much in general improvements as it has during the year now drawing to a close.

....

The crowning achievement of the year was the remodeling of the Iowa State Bank Building more commonly known as the Masonic Building, much of the credit for which is due W.H. Totten, president of the Iowa State Bank. The beautiful building as it stands today represents in a large degree his progressive ideals. Mr. Totten has proven to be not only a careful and capable banker but a consistent booster for Osceola and Clarke county.

The newspaper photo shows the new façade on the bank's half of the building. Totten and the Iowa State Bank were following the lead of other banking institutions across the country by adopting the Neo-classical style for their building. The style became very popular for public buildings (courthouses, libraries, etc.) after the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago that featured dozens of Neo-classical buildings. Banks began using the style because it reminded their patrons of classical Greek and Roman temples and gave the banks an air of permanence. Many architects designing new bank buildings used a

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Osceola Masonic Block
Clarke County, IA

Section number 8 Page 9

full temple façade with monumental columns, elaborate cornice, and a decorative pediment. When a bank was remodeled, Neo-classical elements were often added to the façade to create the illusion of a temple. That is the case with the Masonic Block in Osceola. Cream colored terra cotta was used to give the illusion of white marble. A terra cotta cornice of classical details (dentils, egg and dart, bead and reel) across the façade (and around the corner) defined the top of the first floor. The front entrance on Main Street was off-set to the right and given a pedimented treatment in terra cotta, while the front corners and side pilasters were trimmed with terra cotta quoins. Also visible in the photograph is that the red brick exterior was covered with a pebble dash stucco to present a more "modern" appearance in keeping with the Neo-classical bank front. The stucco was applied to everything except the Italianate hoodmolds and the metal Masonic emblem.

The application of stucco to earlier red brick buildings became common place in the early decades of the 20th century. It was used to give many Italianate style buildings and residences a classical feeling more in keeping with the popular style of the period. Often the stucco had a smooth treatment and was scored to look like ashlar blocks of limestone. Other times, such as the Masonic Block, a pebble dash finish gives the illusion of stone from a distance. This was the finishing touch for the new bank façade. Application of stucco to earlier buildings has long been considered to be intrusive, impairing the integrity of a building. With time the stucco takes on a significance of its own, and in the case of this Osceola building, it becomes an important design element of the building. It represents the second style that defined this building and is considered to be significant.

Conclusion:

The Osceola Masonic Block is a landmark on the Osceola Public Square that speaks to the social history of the community and the impact of fraternal organizations on community development. Masons were among the most proactive supporters of downtown development in the 19th century, often building substantial brick blocks to house their lodge halls in the upper story with attractive rental space below. In Osceola the Masons were able to partner with another major force in the community, the Osceola Bank, in creating a commercial building that added both rental space and dignity to the Public Square. It has local Criterion A significance because of this partnership. The Osceola Masonic Block achieves Criterion C significance as a good example of an Italianate commercial building in a small county seat town, designed by a competent architect/builder, O.J. King. The 1915 exterior remodeling adds another layer of significance by the use of the Neo-classical style, then popular for banking institutions.

The present owners of the second and third floors, Osceola Chamber/Main Street, hired architect Doug Steinmetz to prepare a report identifying the most urgent needs, outlining steps necessary to formulate plans to undertake a rehabilitation of the building. The deteriorating condition of the upper stories is of grave concern. With the Steinmetz report in hand, they are currently researching funding sources and attempting to determine exactly what their next step should be.

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Continuation Sheet

Osceola Masonic Block
Clarke County, IA

Section number 9 Page 10

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Abstracts of Title to the second floor and to the third floor of the building located on the lot at the northwest corner of Lot 3, Block 13, Town of Osceola, Iowa.

Andreas, A.T. Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa. Chicago: A.T. Andreas Atlas Co., 1875. Reprint issued by the State Historical Society of Iowa, 1970.

Hair, James T. (Comp. & Ed.) Iowa State Gazetteer. Chicago: Bailey & Hair, 1865.

Historic Photographs. Postcards of the Masonic Block dating 1907, 1909, and circa 1950. Provided by Osceola Chamber/Main Street.

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"History of Freemasonry." www.iowamasons.com/249MasonicHistory.html accessed June 25, 2008.

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Ogbourne, Diane. Communication to Ann Diehl, June 1, 2009. Provided dates documenting bank occupancy.

Osceola Sentinel. "Changes at the State Bank" July 23, 1914, p 1, c 2
Osceola Centennial Edition, August 2, 1951. Lithograph of Masonic Building, ca. 1890
"Gives Store Plans for NE Corner." From *Osceola Republican*, 1871.
"A Splendid Improvement" Photo with caption, December 30, 1915, p 1, c 3 & 4
"The Masonic Block" Photo with caption, December 7, 1916, p 1, c 3 & 4

Sanborn Map Company. Osceola maps from 1886, 1893, 1899, 1907, 1913, 1926, 1926-1936, 1926 -

Schroder, Alan M. (Comp.) Directory of 19th Century Iowa Architects. Iowa City, IA: Iowa State Historical Department, Division of the State Historical Society, 1982.

Shank, Wesley I. Iowa's Historic Architects: A Biographical Dictionary. Iowa City, IA: University of Iowa Press, 1999.

Steinmetz, Douglas J. "Report on Site Visit." Prepared for Osceola Chamber-Main Street, March 2008.

White, Marie. Osceola City Business Directory: 1851-1996. 1996.

Osceola Masonic Block
Name of Property

Clarke County, IA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	[1]5	[4]3[5]6[16]8	[4]5[4]2	8	8	8]	2	[1]5	[0]0[0]0[0]0	[0]0[0]0[0]0
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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 Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant mollynaumann@pcsia.net
organization _____ date April 2010
street & number 167 West Alta Vista telephone 641-682-2743
city or town Ottumwa state IA zip code 52501-1437

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete 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	<u>Osceola Chamber/Main Street</u>	<u>Jim & Connie Penick</u>	<u>Bi Fen Li</u>
street	<u>115 E. Washington Street</u>	<u>206 North Vale Street</u>	<u>822 E. Washington Street</u>
phone	<u>641-342-4200</u>	<u>641-342-4064</u>	<u>641-342-1441</u>
city/state	<u>Osceola IA</u> zip <u>50213</u>	<u>Osceola, IA 50213</u>	<u>Clarinda, IA 51632</u>

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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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Osceola Masonic Block
Clarke County, IA

Section number 10 Page 11

GEOGRAPHIC DATA:

Boundary Description:

Commencing at the Northwest corner of Lot Two (2) in Block No. Thirteen (13) in the Town of Osceola and running thence South Forty-two (42) feet along the West line of said Lot, thence East Eighty (80) feet, North Forty-two (42) feet, West eighty (80) feet to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This is the town lot on which this building was constructed, and is the parcel historically associated with the Masonic Building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Osceola Masonic Block
Clarke County, IA

Section number Additional Page 13

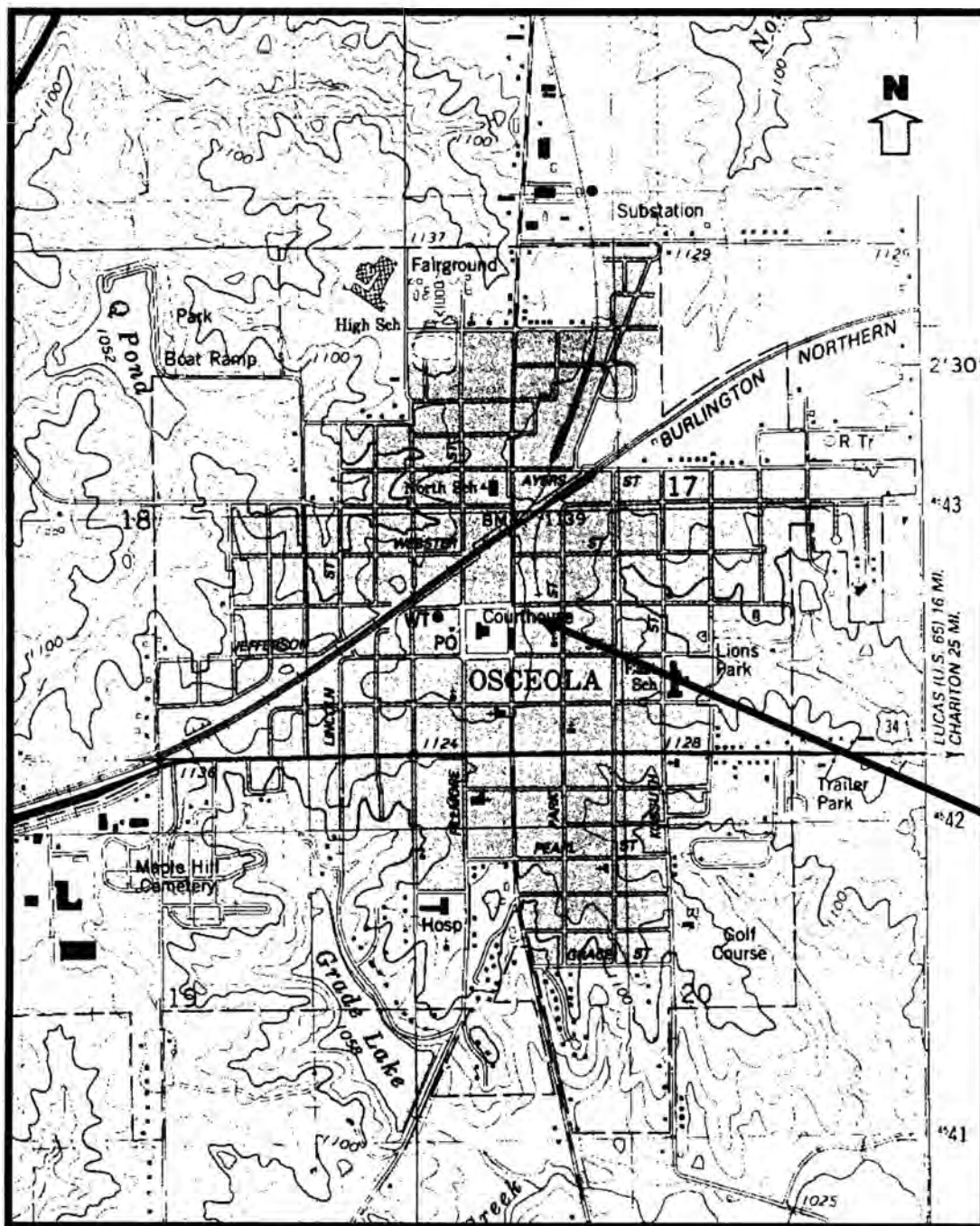


Figure 1
U.S.G.S. Map of Osceola (1983)
Arrow indicates location of Masonic Block

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Osceola Masonic Block
Clarke County, IA

Section number Additional Page 14

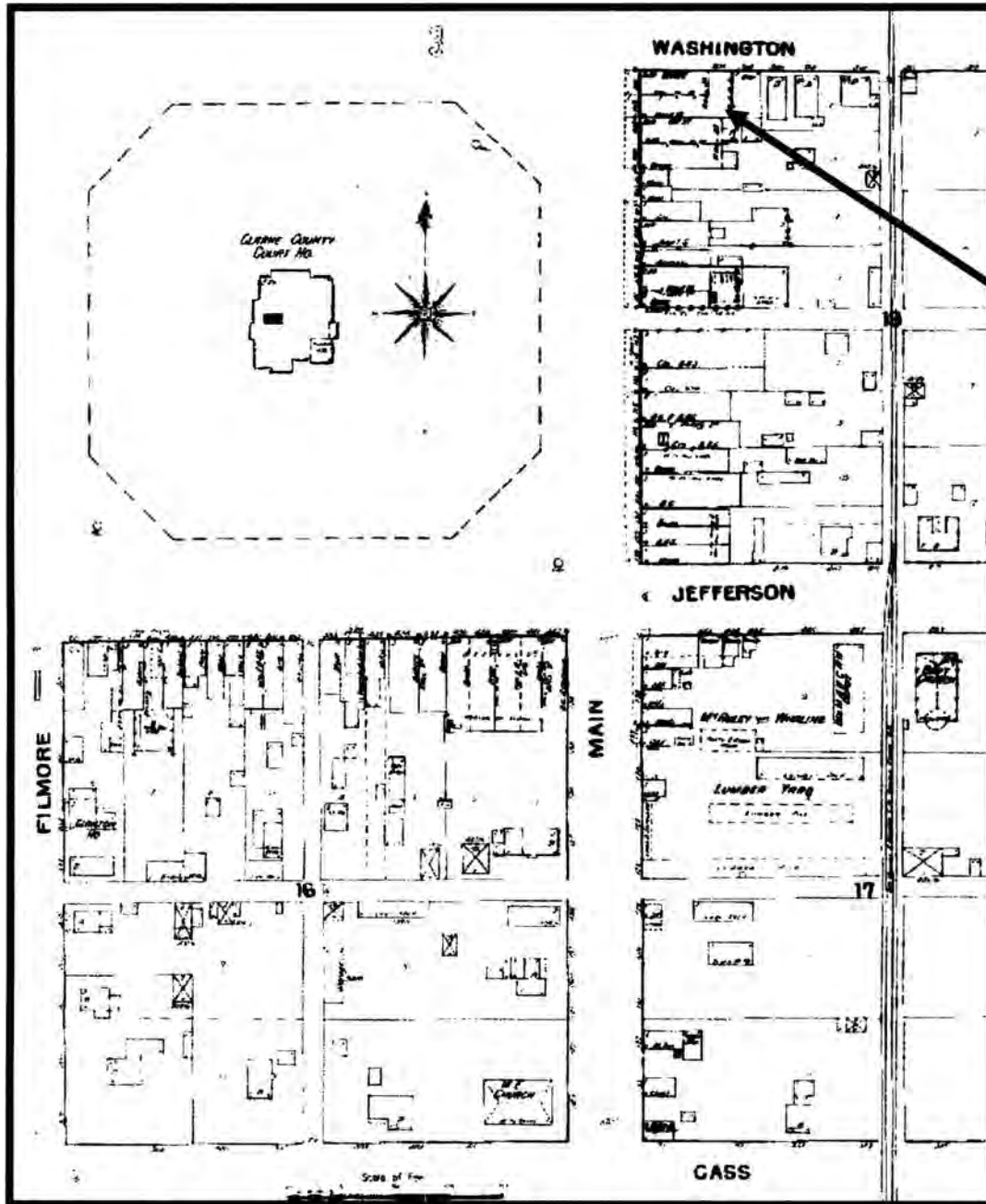


Figure 2
1893 Sanborn Map of East and South sides of the Public Square
Arrow indicates location of Masonic Block

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National Park Service

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Osceola Masonic Block
Clarke County, IA

Section number Additional Page 15

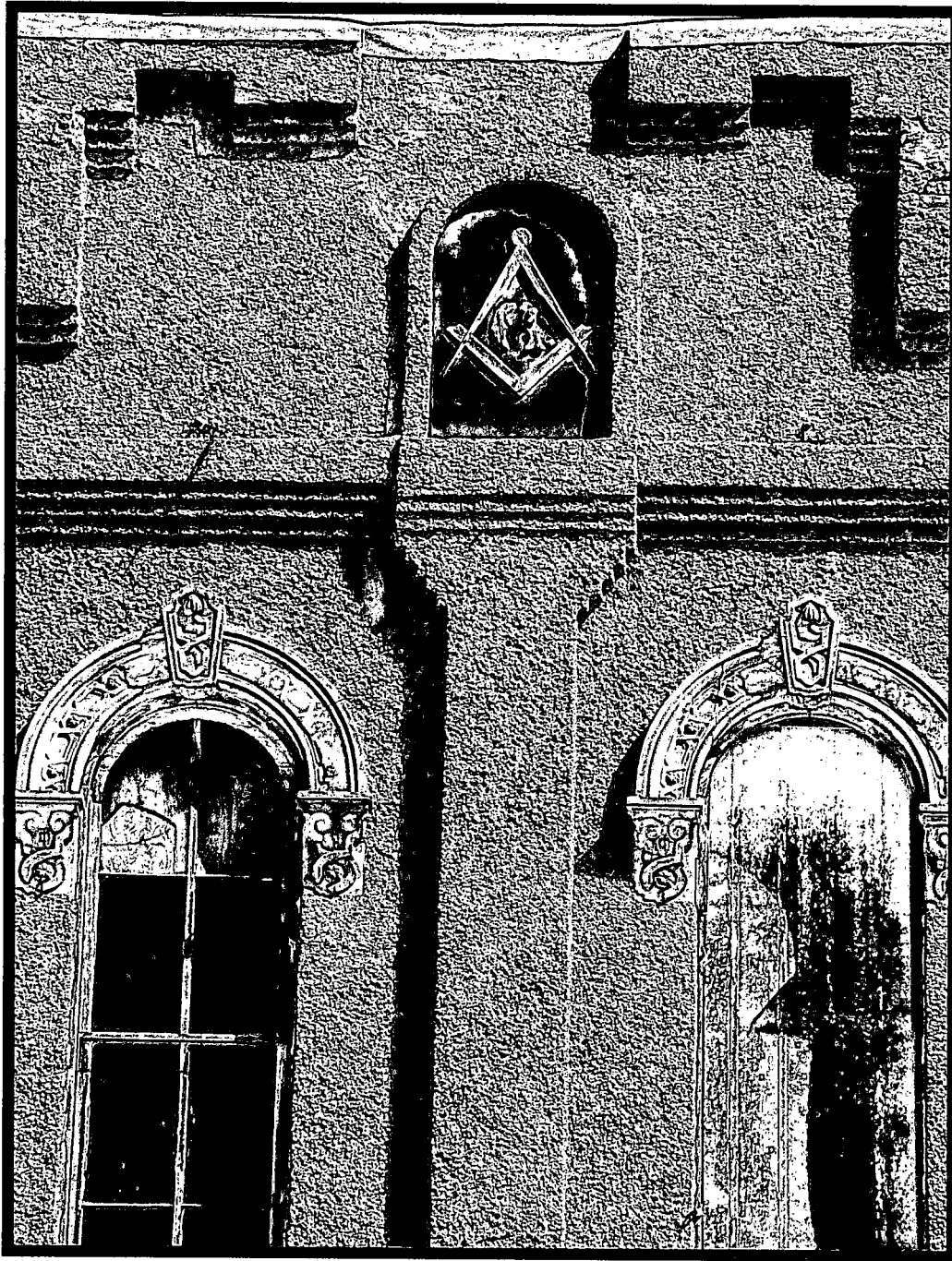


Figure 3
Detail: Square & Compass in cornice

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Osceola Masonic Block
Clarke County, IA

Section number Additional Page 16

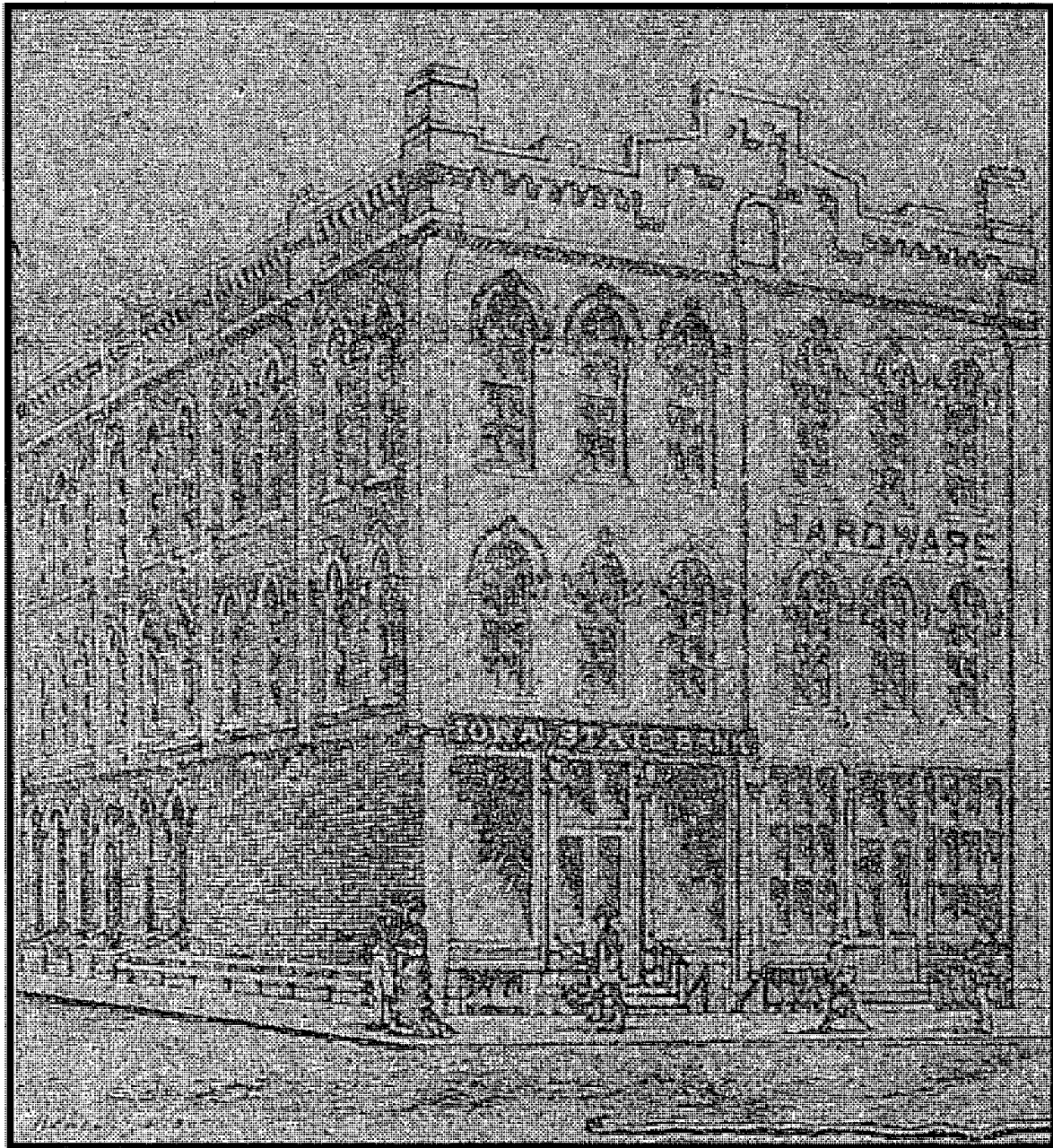


Figure 4
Historic view of Masonic Block ca. 1890
(Reprinted *Osceola Sentinel*, Centennial Edition, August 2, 1951, Section 2, p 5)

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National Park Service

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Osceola Masonic Block
Clarke County, IA

Section number Additional Page 17



Figure 5
Postcard with 1907 postmark



Figure 6
Postcard with 1909 postmark
(Both postcards courtesy of Osceola Chamber/Main Street)

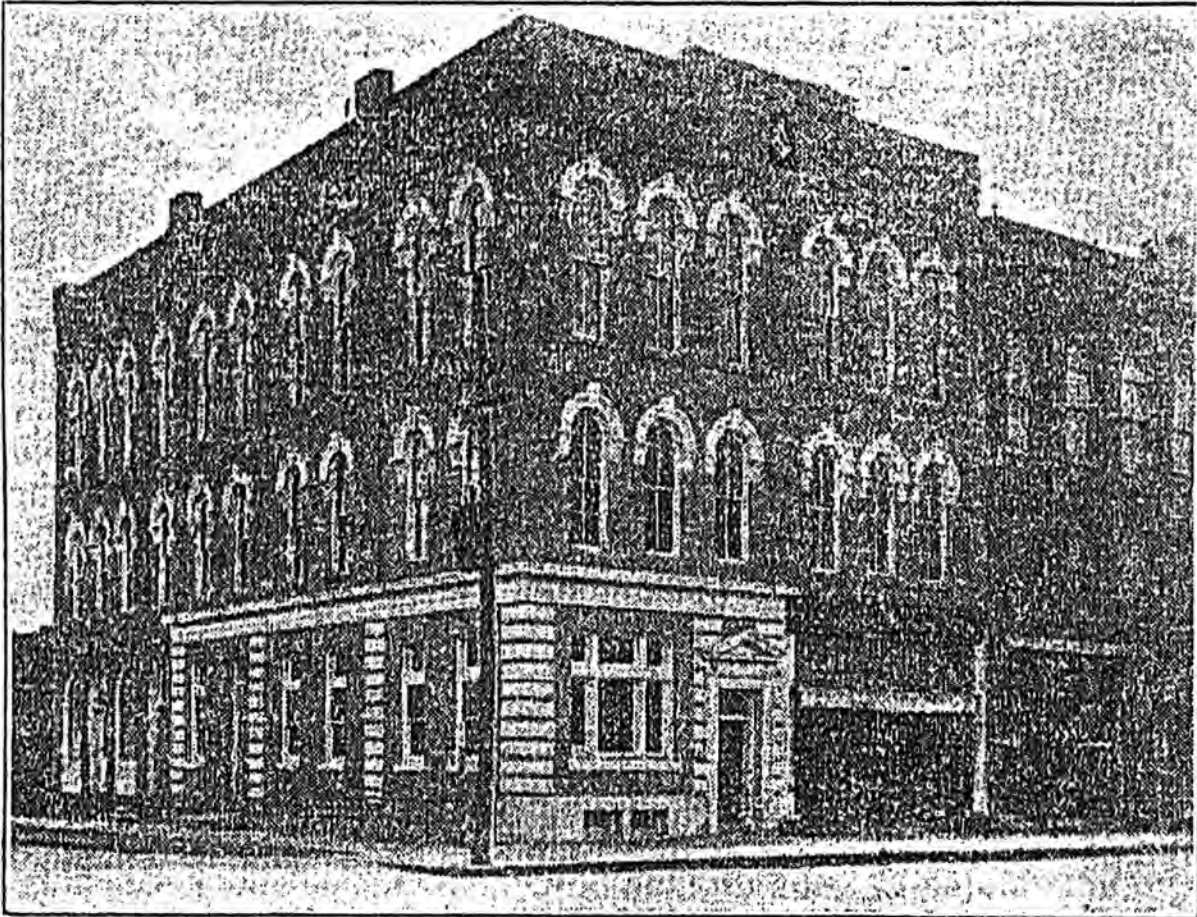
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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Osceola Masonic Block
Clarke County, IA

Section number Additional Page 18

A SPLENDID IMPROVEMENT



THE MASONIC BLOCK

Figure 7
(*Osceola Sentinel*, December 30, 1915, page one)

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Osceola Masonic Block
Clarke County, IA

Section number Additional Page 19

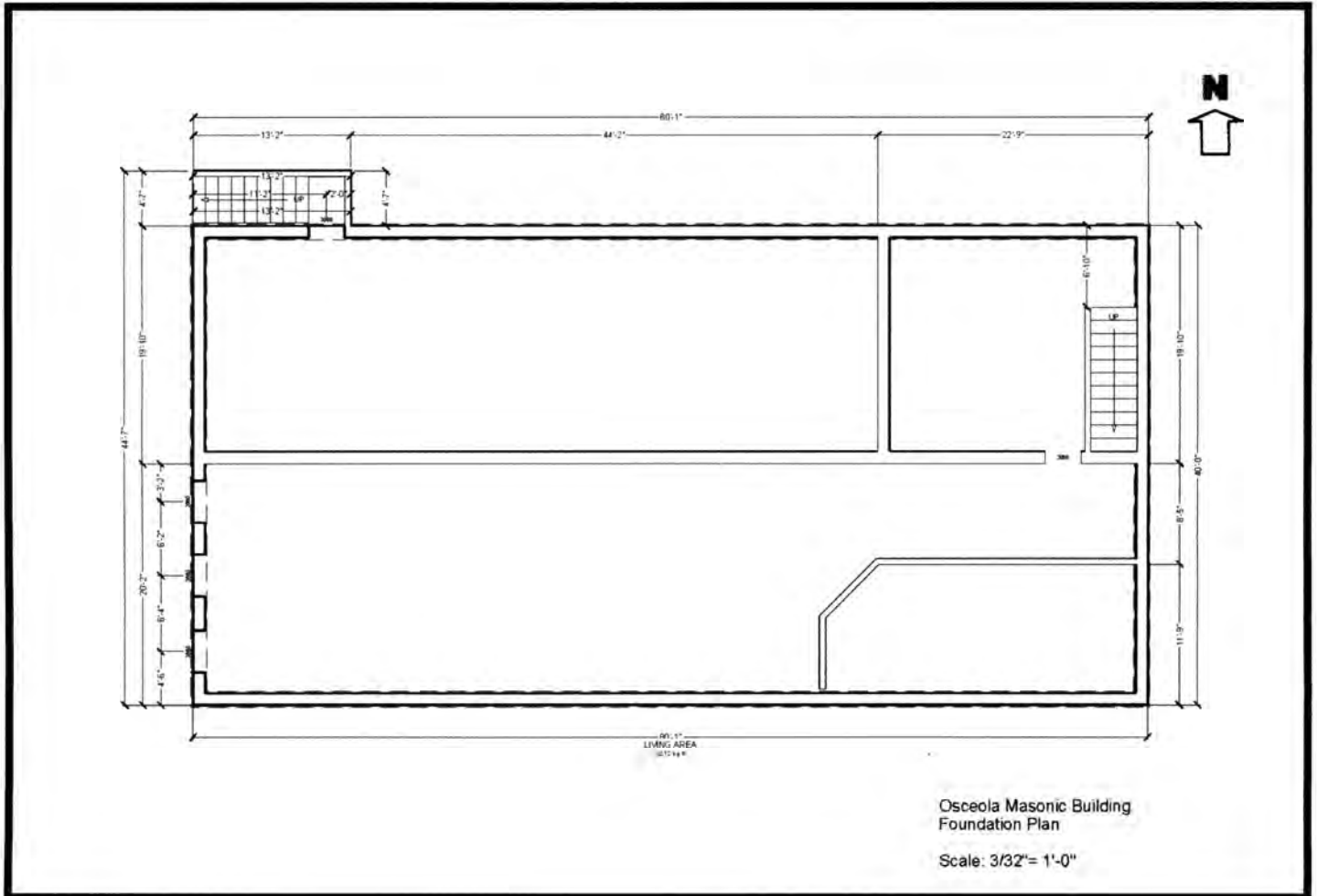


Figure 8
Basement Floor Plan
(Ryan Lundquist Plan, 2009)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Osceola Masonic Block
Clarke County, IA

Section number Additional Page 20

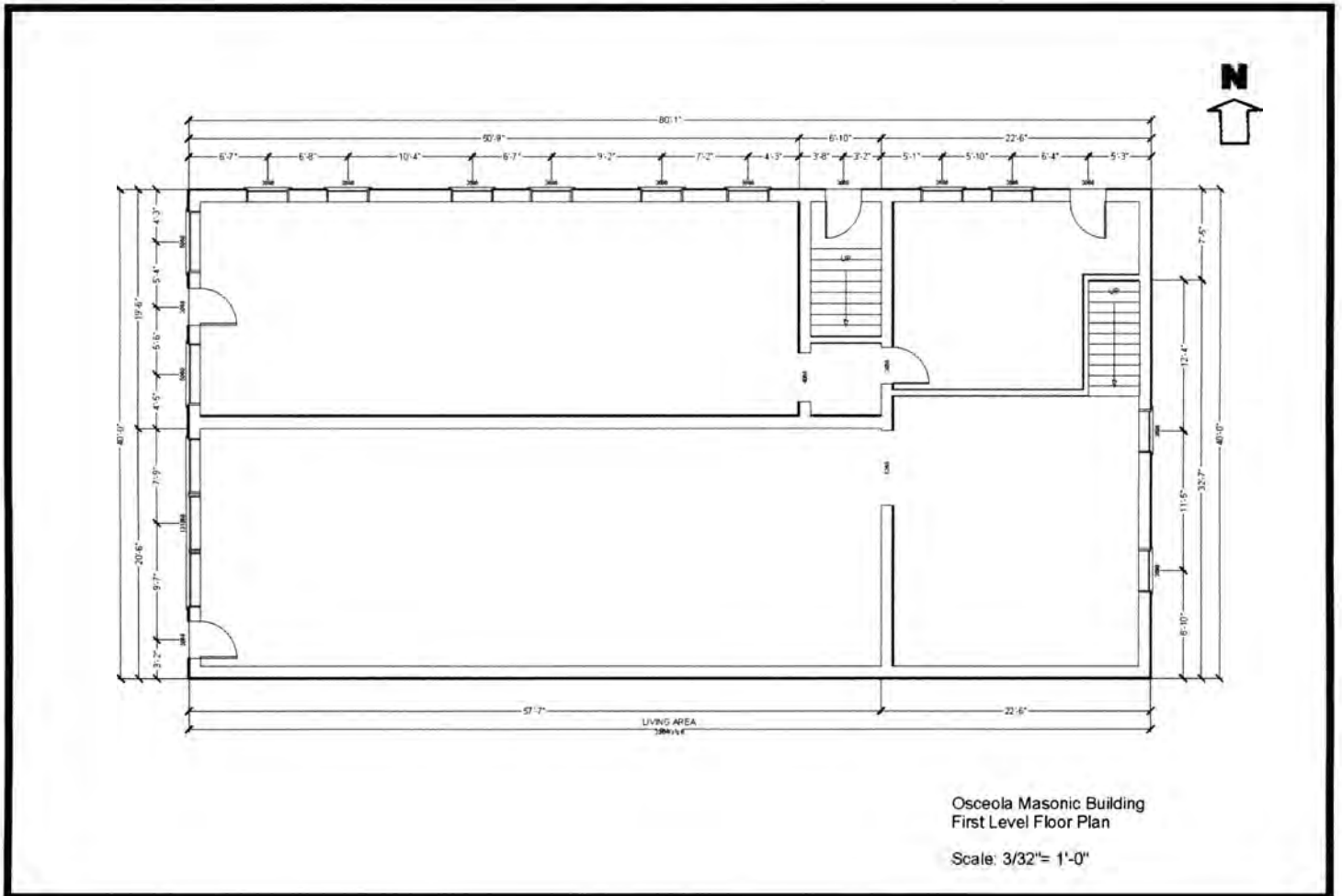


Figure 9
First Floor Plan
(Ryan Lundquist Plan, 2009)

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Osceola Masonic Block
Clarke County, IA

Section number Additional Page 21

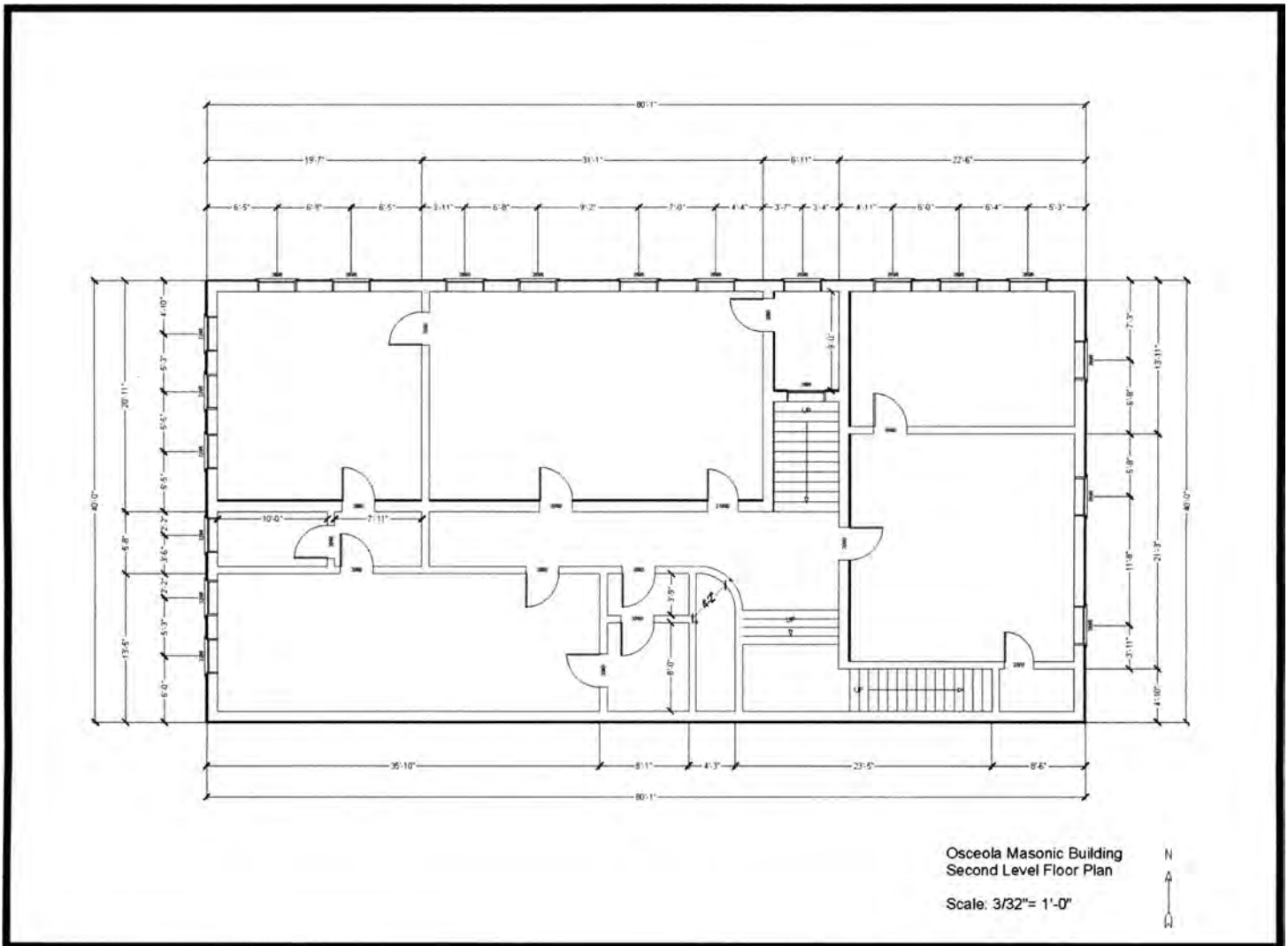


Figure 10
Second Floor Plan
Offices
(Ryan Lundquist Plan, 2009)

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Osceola Masonic Block
Clarke County, IA

Section number Additional Page 22

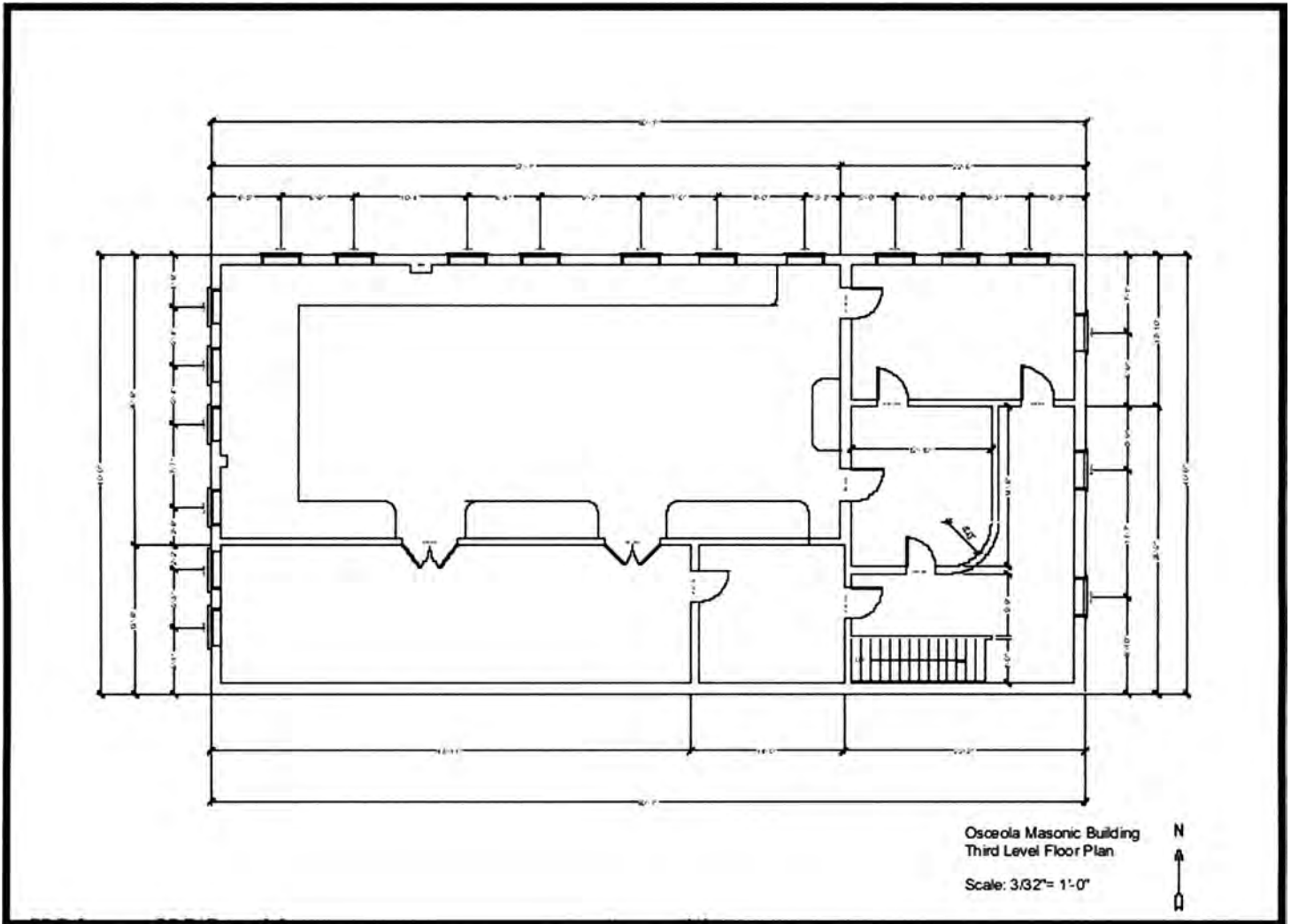


Figure 11
Third Floor Plan
Masonic Lodge
(Ryan Lundquist Plan, 2009)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Osceola Masonic Block
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Clarke

DATE RECEIVED: 5/20/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/18/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/06/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/04/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000421

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT JUL 6 2010 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER Turkiya Lowe DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

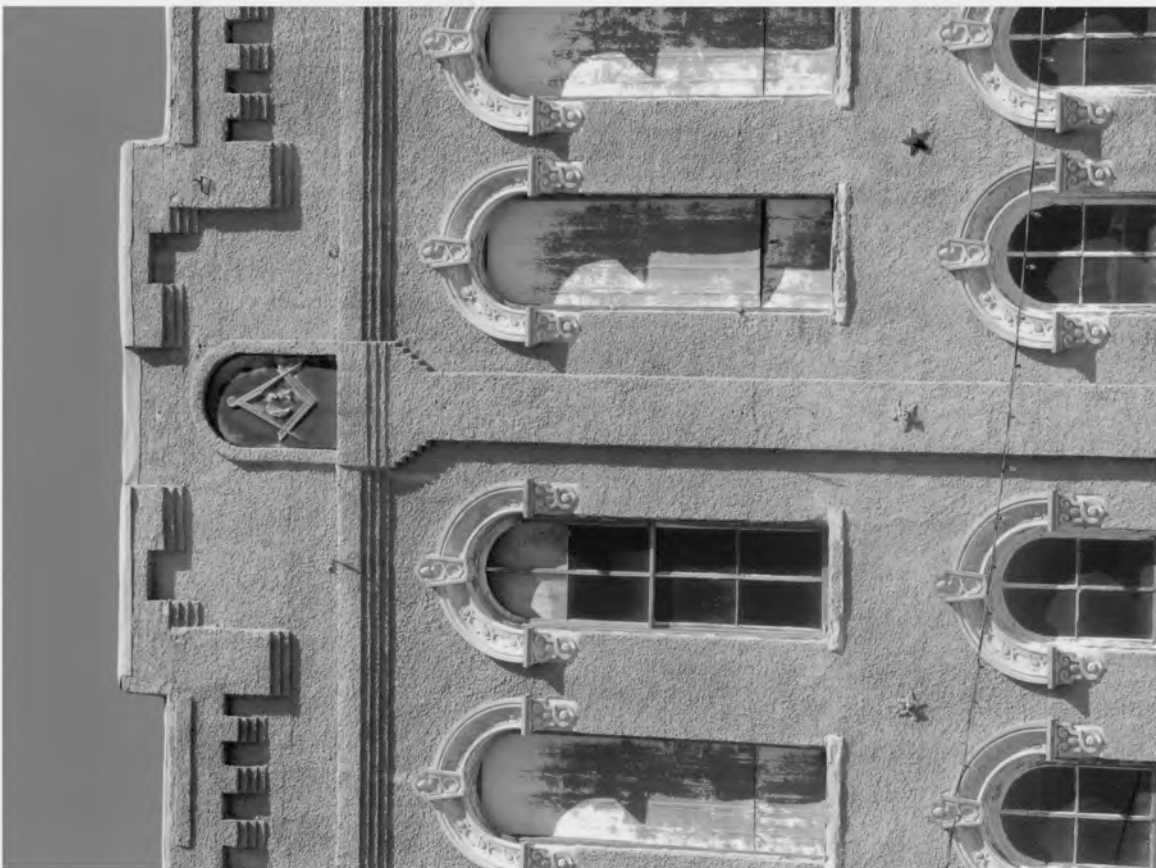
TELEPHONE 202-354-2266 DATE 6-29-10

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Masonic Building
Clarke County, IA Photo #0001



Masonic Building
Clarke County, IA Photo #002



Masonic Building
Clarke County, IA Photo #0003



Masonic Building
Clarke County, IA Photo #0004



Masonic Building
Clarke County, IA #0005



Masonic Building
Clarke County, IA Photo #0006



Masonic Building
Clarke County, IA Photo #0007



Masonic Building
Clarke County, IA Photo #0008



Masonic Building
Clarke County, IA Photo #0009



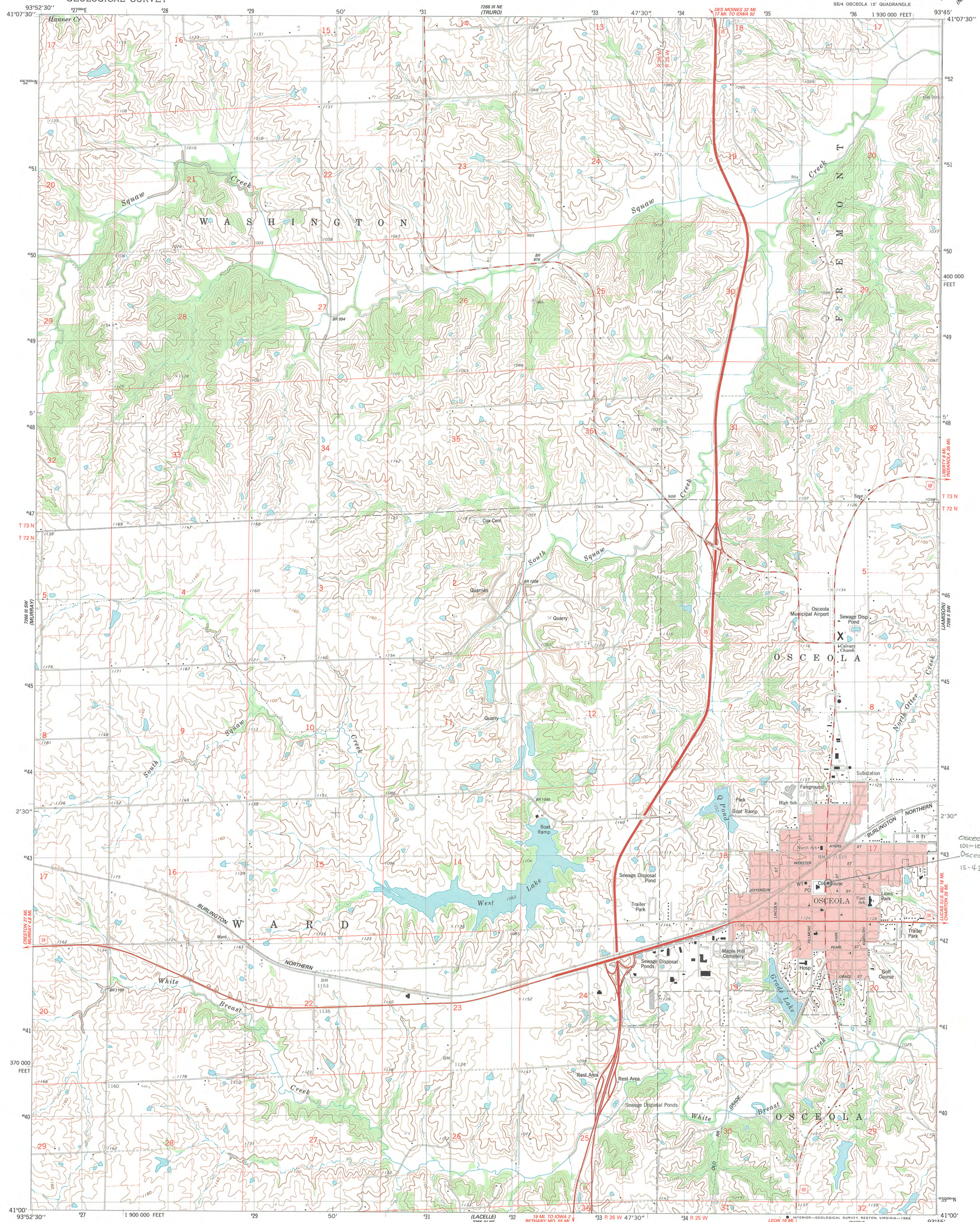
Masonic Building
Clarke County, IA Photo #0010



Lockkeeper's House
Davis County, IA Photo #0011

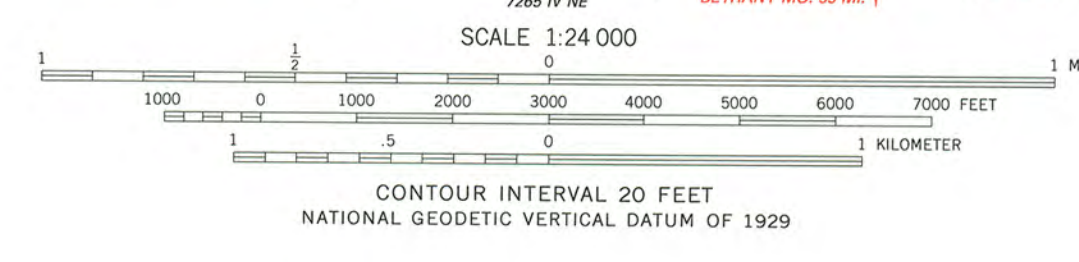
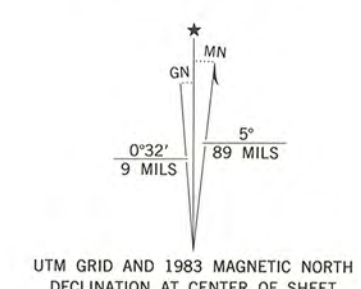


Masonic Building
Clarke County, IA Photo #0012



Osceola Masonic Building
101-103 South Main Street
Osceola (Clarke County), IA
15-435668-4542888

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1978. Field checked 1980. Map edited 1983
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Iowa coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 3 meters north and 18 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

OSCEOLA, IOWA
SERIES OSCEOLA 15' QUADRANGLE
N4100-W9345/7.5
1983
DMA 7266 III SE-SERIES V876

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



May 18, 2010

Carol Shull, Chief
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, N.W.-- 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

The following National Register nomination(s) are enclosed for your review and listed if acceptable.

- Osceola Masonic Block, 101-103 South Main Street, Osceola, Clarke County, Iowa
- Iowa Commission for the Blind Building, 524 4th Street, Des Moines, Polk County
This nomination is being resubmitted after removing the case for national significance and revising the nomination to only local and statewide significance. Preparer hopes to amend the nomination later to national significance.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Foster Hill
Tax Incentive Programs Manager/
National Register Coordinator

Osceola Masonic Block

6-28-10

L: Osceola, Clarke Co., IA

lev. of Sig: Local

Contrib: 1 Bldg

A. of Sig: Crit. A - Social History

Crit. C - Architecture (Late Victorian/Italianate Commercial design)

P. of Sig: 1872-1949 ; 1872

1915 (First floor facade remodel)

Sect. 7 pg. 1 Extensive remodel of Mainstreet storefronts
- When did these occur?

Picts. * These remodels destroy the integrity of the first floor exterior primary facade but not the 1915 remodel.

pg. 3 * Current storefronts date primarily from a 1950 remodel

Sect. 8 pg. 1 Nominated for its importance in 19th and 20th Osceola social life (Masonic Hall) and Italianate Commercial design (Local Bank)

Recc: NR listing for Crit. A - Social History and Crit. C - Late Victorian Italianate Commercial Design.