

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 98001327

Property Name: Consistory Building No. 2

County: Linn State: Iowa

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Linda McAllard
Signature of the Keeper

November 20, 1998
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Significance:

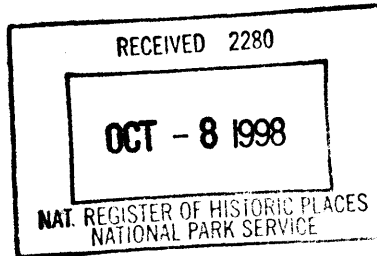
"1910" is, hereby, dropped from the entry for significant dates because the original 1910 building has been altered to the extent that it no longer reflects its period of construction.

Beth Foster of the Iowa State Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1327

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 Consistory Building No. 2

other names/site number scottish Rite Temple

2. Location

street & number 616 "A" Avenue N.E. N/A not for publication

city or town Cedar Rapids N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Linn County code 113 zip code 52401-1094

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.)

Patricia Quinterini DSHP 9-29-98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Linda McClelland 11/20/98

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social/Meeting Hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social/Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th/20th Century Revivals/
Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/limestone

walls stone/limestone
brick

roof asphalt

other _____

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1927

Significant Dates

1927

1910

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hornbostel, Henry (architect)

Loomis Bros. Construction (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3 Acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 610650 4648503
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 Mark Wayne Hunter

organization Cedar Rapids Historical Archives date February, 1998

street & number 2856 14th Avenue S.E. telephone (319) 398-0419

city or town Cedar Rapids state Iowa zip code 52403

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 Cedar Rapids Consistory Fidelity Company

street & number 616 A. Avenue NE telephone 319/364-2904

city or town Cedar Rapids state Iowa zip code 52401

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.

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

Consistory Building

Section number 7 Page 1

Linn County, Iowa

DESCRIPTION

The Scottish Rite Temple and Consistory building at 616 A Avenue N.E. in Cedar Rapids, Iowa is a splendid example of Colonial Revival architecture. The building sits at the highest elevation of the Cedar Rapids central business district. The cornerstone was laid April 30, 1927 and the structure was completed in the autumn of that year. This building is attached to a 1910 structure also utilized by the Cedar Rapids Masonry Order.

This 2½ story structure, now located at the NW end of the newer 1927 building, was originally built to the north of and connected to a residence that stood at the NE corner of A Avenue and Sixth Street N.E., the George Bever residence. The official address of this older building is 210 6th Street N.E. When originally constructed in 1910, the front facade of this earlier structure featured five window bays separated by pilasters and topped with traditional cornice. In the 1970's, construction of the interstate highway within a few feet of this structure caused sections of the facade to crack and collapse. As a result, nearly the entire original front facade was removed and replaced with plain, flat stone broken by the original window openings. The only original architectural element of the front facade that survives is the front entrance, flanked by two ornamental brackets with swags and topped with a traditional pediment. The year 1910 is inscribed within the pediment space and just to the lower left of the doorway is the cornerstone, dated August 3, 1910. Most of the south and all of the east exterior walls have been enclosed by the 1927 structure. The north exterior wall, facing

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Consistory Building
Linn County

Description (continued)

the alley, is a brick wall that has been stuccoed. The interior of the 1910 structure is basically unaltered, featuring an auditorium with wraparound balcony and a stage area.

The focus here is on the newer structure, particularly and beginning with the exterior south front facade, containing elements of Classical Greek Temple design. Only this frontal south side has a unified design. The remaining three exterior walls of the structure are offset by the presence of the 1910 building, although it is effectively hidden from frontal view by the west wing of the frontal design.

The south exterior, facing A Avenue, features a tall center section highlighted by an extended portico with pediment roof. This center section is flanked by two equally measured wings each containing a recessed portico. These recessed porticos have attached pediments above and contain two Doric columns with Doric pilasters at each end to support the false pediment.

The main center portico on the south exterior front is truly Classic in design and in execution. The number of columns is six, the perfect numeral of Classical architectural theory. These columns are of Classic Greek Doric design, lacking bases of any kind, featuring a proper entasis and topped by proper Doric capitals. Within the entablature, in lieu of tri-fascia architrave, there exists a plain field, ideal for the placing of the name of the structure. The frieze also conforms to Classical standards, featuring metopes and triglyphs. The triglyphs conform to the spacing of the massive columns, except at the corners in order to insure the appearance of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3Consistory Building
Linn County, Iowa

Description (continued)

solidity. The absence of a proper cornice is somewhat noticeable.

Also along the south exterior front of the structure are proper placement of doors and windows in void spaces between columns. Additionally, doors to either side of the main portico are placed to add to overall uniformity, in keeping with concepts of Masonic ideas and thought.

The east and west exterior walls of the 1927 building are of the same limestone block pattern, but very simple in design. The west exterior wall is cut short by the connecting 1910 structure. The east exterior wall extends to the alley behind the building and consists of synchronous window spaces. The north exterior wall, facing the alley, is of brick construction.

The structure is basically the same in exterior appearance now as it was in 1927. The only minor change was the covering of the wide set of steps leading to the main portico on the south exterior. This was necessitated by the widening of A Avenue around 1970. The steps are still intact, but now hidden underneath a small limestone wall and shrubbery.

When originally built, The Scottish Rite Temple/Consistory building was in the midst of a residential neighborhood. During the late 1960's and 1970's, a new expressway was constructed just to the north of the building. The area behind the building was deeply excavated for the roadway, thus highlighting the plain, unadorned brick north exterior wall.

The interior of the building is also virtually unchanged

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4Consistory Building
Linn County, Iowa

Description (continued)

since construction was completed in 1927. All original interior architectural design features remain. These include the Classical elements present in the entrance lobby. Here are Doric piers and pilasters lined up along the walls in a soldierly manner, commanding a stoic and serious appearance. To the left of the entrance room is the Lodge classroom, highlighted by two Corinthian columns on either side of the teachers pulpit. Throughout the remainder of the interior are Doric pilasters in various rooms, including a very large room for social gatherings, a spacious auditorium with full stage equipment including a pipe organ and other classrooms, meeting spaces, recreation areas and offices. A massive mantle fireplace graces the lounge in the SW section of the main floor. Again, most every element present in 1927, down to the original auditorium seats are still in use today. The only major modification to the interior design is the carpeting of original tiled floors.

To the east and west of the Scottish Rite Temple/Consistory buildings are black-topped parking lots. The lot to the east extends from the building to 7th Street N.E. The west parking lot was originally a portion of 6th Street N.E. until it was cut off by the expressway construction. There is still a small "alley" driveway along the north end of the property, situated tightly between the structure and a retaining wall for the expressway. Since the expansion of A Avenue, the south front of the building is quite close to the street, though there is a sidewalk between the curb and where the now hidden first step to the main portico begins.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5Consistory Building
Linn County, IowaSTATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Scottish Rite Temple/Consistory is significant under Criterion C as one of the finest examples of Classical Architecture in the city of Cedar Rapids. The building is virtually unchanged in both exterior and interior appearance since its construction in 1927. Since then it has been maintained for its original purpose as a meeting place for Masonic functions. Also it is an outstanding design of local architect William J. Brown, whose firm is still in operation. It is the last existing structure from a neighborhood eliminated by urban renewal. It sits proudly perched upon the historic top of the "A Avenue Hill". Cedar Rapids has a notorious history of wanton demolition of historic structures, but this has changed in recent years. It is important to preserve the few remaining architectural gems of the city. Preservation of this structure also helps to remind viewers of the great impact of Masonic activities in Cedar Rapids.

Historical background and significance

The site upon which the structure sits is of historic interest. It was here, in 1843, that George Greene, one of Cedar Rapids' earliest settlers and ultimately its most important citizen (referred to as "the father of Cedar Rapids"), first surveyed the area that would become Cedar Rapids. This location became known as "The Hill", and throughout the latter half of the Nineteenth Century, the most prominent citizens of Cedar Rapids built magnificent homes along what became "A" Avenue. Originally

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 6Consistory Building
Linn County, Iowa

Statement of significance (continued)

at the site of the Scottish Temple at the N.E. corner of A Avenue and 6th Street was the fine residence of Mr. and Mrs. A.S. Belt. Mrs. Belt was the daughter of George Greene, and the large brick house had been built for her by her father. It was later sold to George Bever, prominent in banking and real estate. The Bever house was used by the Consistory after 1910, connected by tunnel to the original Consistory structure to the north. (A Consistory is defined as a place that houses various Masonic Orders- in this case orders such as the Cedar Rapids Lodge of Perfection and the Cedar Rapids Chapter of Rose Croix, for example.). When the newer 1927 structure was built, the Bever home was razed, along with two other massive nineteenth century mansions that stood on the north side of A Avenue between 6th and 7th Streets N.E.

Announcement of construction of the Scottish Rite Temple/ Consistory building was early in 1927, the plans designed by architect William J. Brown of Cedar Rapids, who, that same year, designed the unique Memorial Coliseum and City Hall structure on May's Island within the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids.

In the Sunday, April 24, 1927 edition of The Evening Gazette, an announcement was made that a unique double cornerstone ceremony would be held on April 30th, one week later. Simultaneous with the construction of the Scottish Rite Temple, a massive Shriner's Temple was also erected just to the west of the Scottish Rite Temple, at the N.W. corner of A Avenue and 6th Street N.E.. It was designed by a rival architectural firm and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 7Consistory Building
Linn County, Iowa

Statement of significance (continued)

of Islamic design. The double cornerstone ceremony on April 30, 1927 was held in conjunction with a large Consistory reunion held in Cedar Rapids. Present at the dedication was Calvin Greene, son of George Greene.

The Scottish Rite Temple/Consistory building was completed in late 1927 at a cost of \$250,000. The Shriner's Temple across the street, with its four massive Islamic onion dome towers, was completed about the same time for a similar sum. Together, these two temples dominated "the Hill" on A Avenue for 35 years, along with surviving mansions from the nineteenth century.

In the early 1960's, the decision was made to route the Cedar Valley Expressway (now known as Interstate 380) through this area. Ultimately, over 150 houses and commercial buildings were demolished in the area surrounding the Scottish Rite Temple between 1967-1969. Included were all the remaining mansions on A Avenue. Also demolished was the 35 year old Shriner's Temple across the street to the west. With the exceptions of an 1873 church and a 1918 YMCA building, the 1927 Scottish Rite Temple/Consistory is the only structure within a 12 block area that was spared from demolition. This was a massive urban renewal undertaking. The architectural significance of the building was instrumental in its being spared from the wrecking ball.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 8

Consistory Building
Linn County, Iowa

Major Bibliographical References

Carter, James D. "History of the Masonic Order" (Supreme Council 33°) 1967.

Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette. 1926-1928, 1967-1969.

"Cedar Rapids-A Wonderful Place To Live". Cedar Rapids: Tru-art publishers. 1929.

Clements, Ralph. "Tales Of The Town". Cedar Rapids: Stamats. 1967.

"A Guide To Cedar Rapids" (WPA Project). Cedar Rapids: Laurence Press. 1937.

Murray, Janette Stevenson and Frederick Gray. "The Story of Cedar Rapids". Stratford House. 1950.

Verbal Boundary Description

SW $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 2, Block 51, Original Town, now City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Lot 3 and Lots 6 to 10 inclusive, Block 51, Original Town, now City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and the NE-ly 6 feet of North Sixth Street extending from "A" Avenue to the alley in Block 51 along and adjoining Lot 10 in said Block 51, Original Town, now City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and SW-ly 45 feet NW-ly 80 feet and rear 60 feet, Lot 4, Block 51, Original Town, now City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and rear 60 feet of Lot 5, Block 51, Original Town, now City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Consistory Building

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

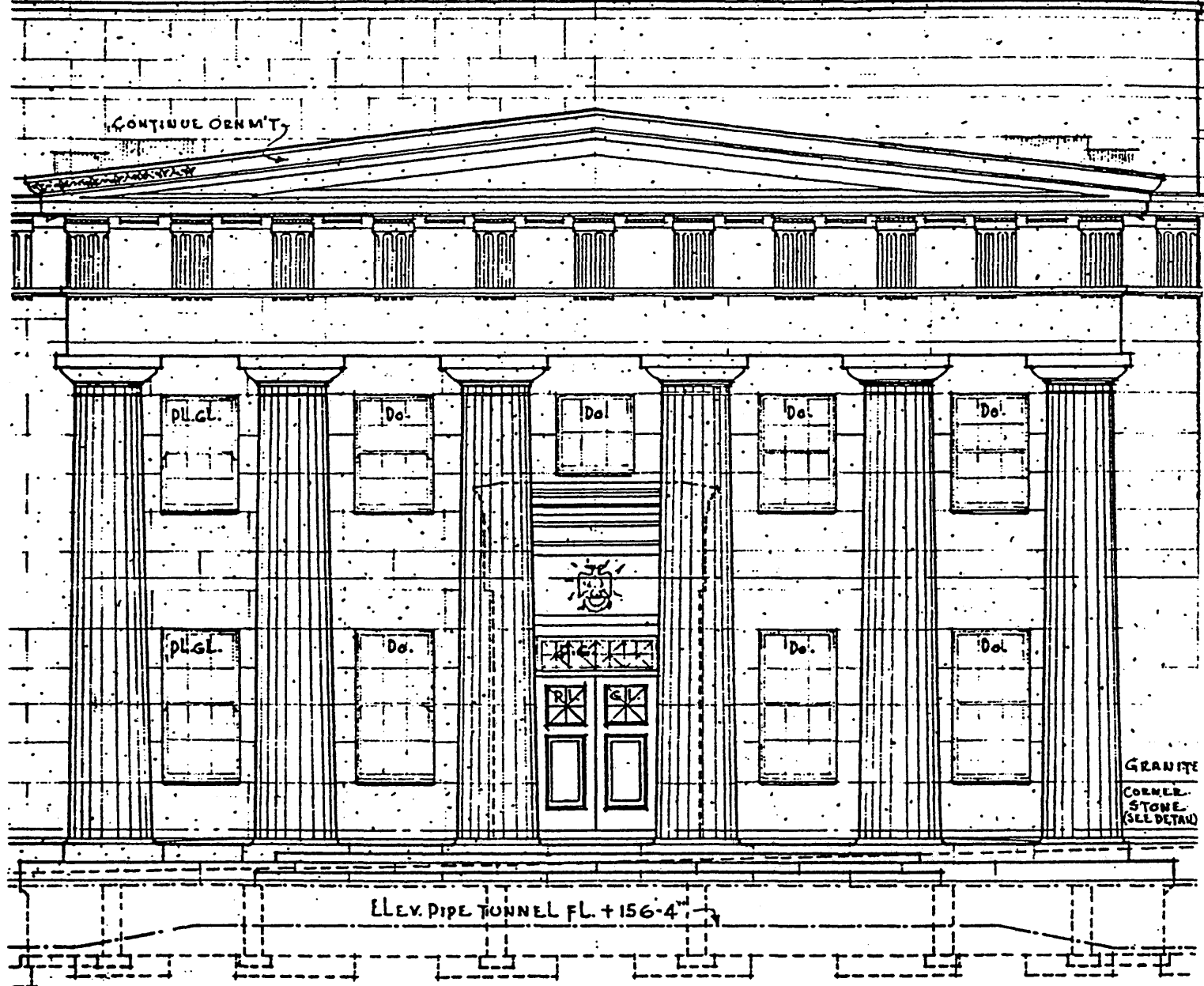
Consistory Building

Section number Add'1 Page 9

Linn County, Iowa

ALTERNATE BID - STUCCO MARKED
OFF TO IMITATE STONE JOINTS

ELEV. TOP OF STONE COPING 203'-6" ↘



⊕

WILLIAM J. BROWN
ARCHITECT

Original architect's drawing of front main portico. March 1927.

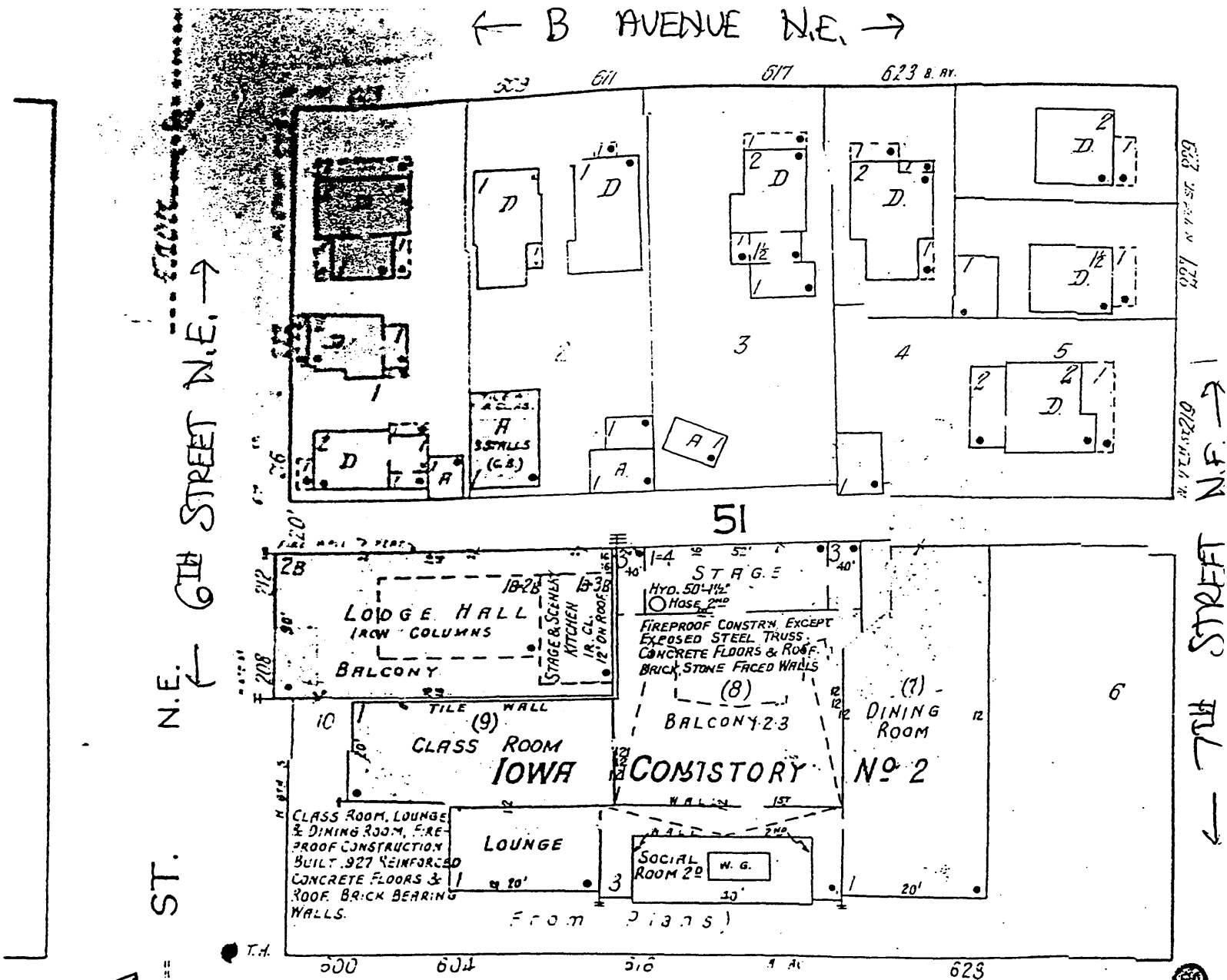
• SOUTH ELEVATION •

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Add 1 Page 10

SCOTTISH TEMPLE / CONSISTORY
LINN COUNTY, IOWA

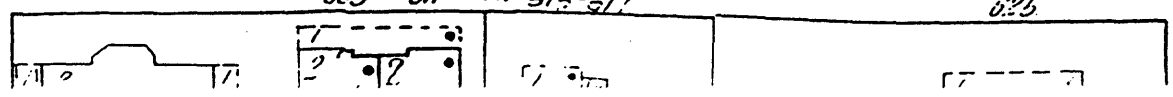


← "A" AVENUE N.E. →

DATE OF MAP - 1931 (STANBORN FIRE INSURANCE)

N
ST. N.E.
6TH STREET N.E. →

7TH STREET N.E. →

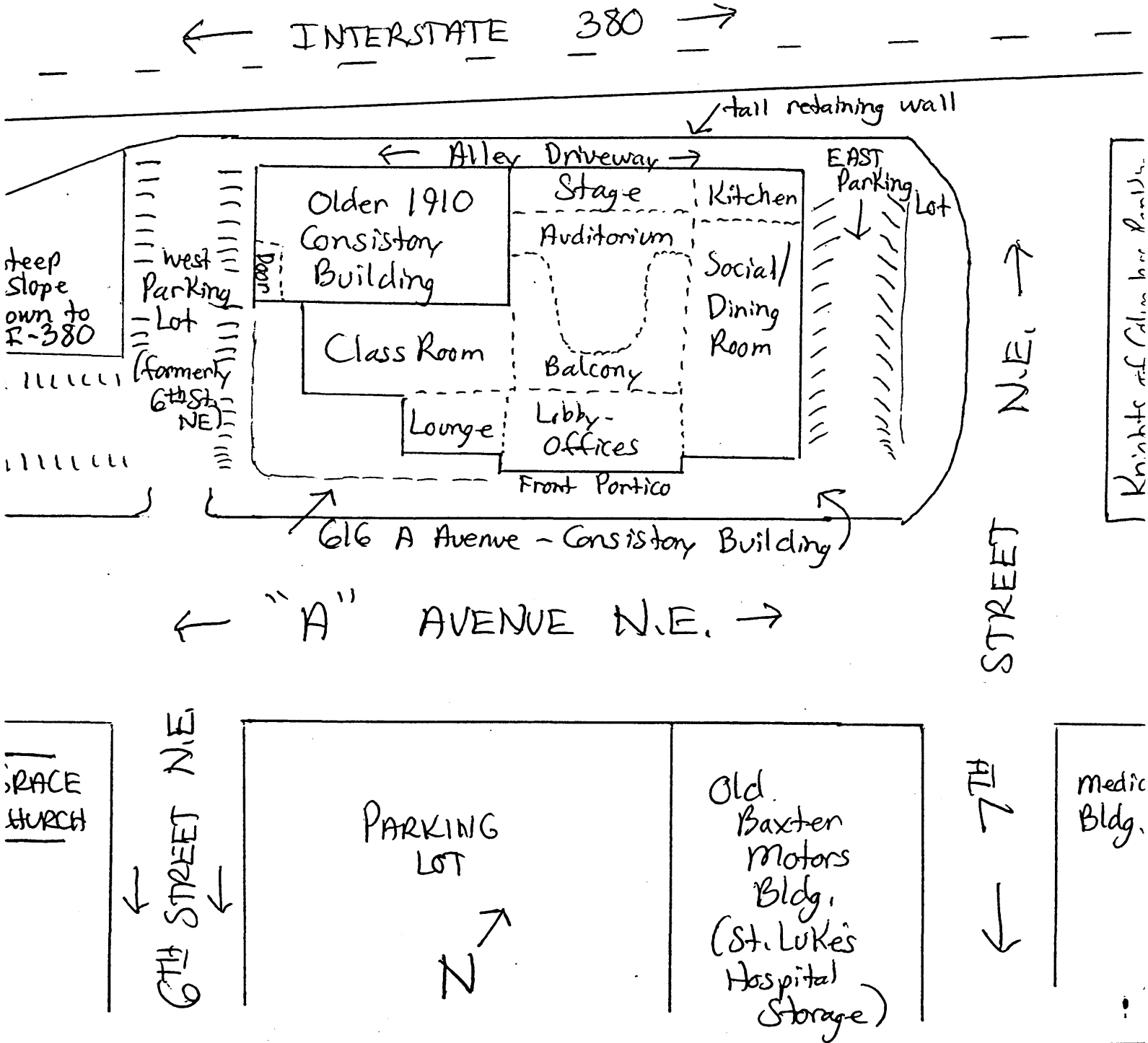


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

CONSISTORY BUILDING
LINN COUNTY, IOWA

Section number Add'l Page 11



CURRENT SITE PLAN - CONSISTORY BUILDING

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

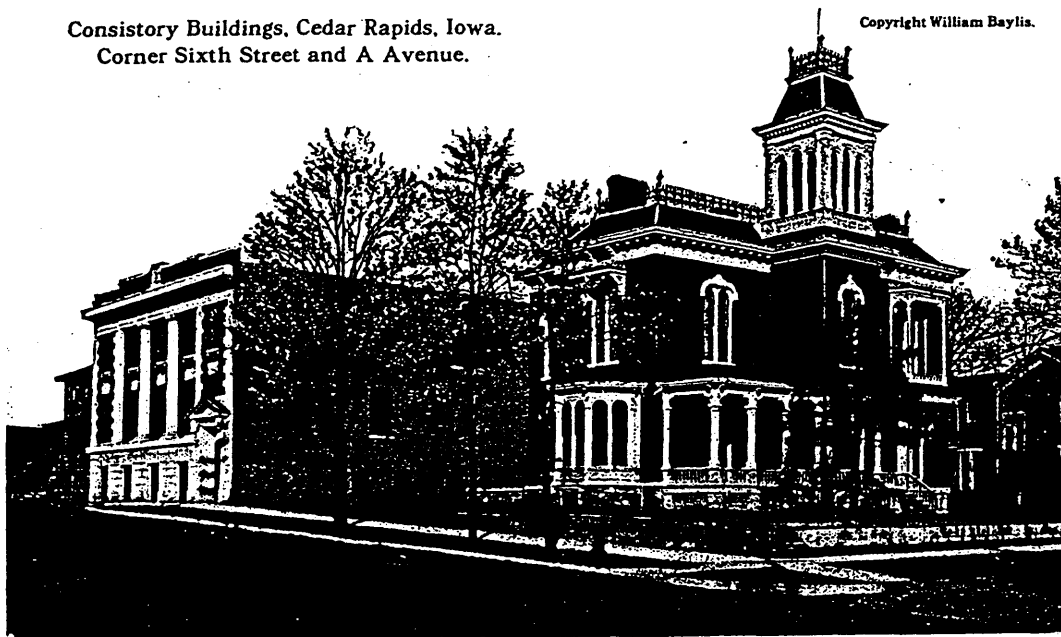
Section number Add'l Page 12

Consistory Building

Linn County, Iowa

Consistory Buildings, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
Corner Sixth Street and A Avenue.

Copyright William Baylis.



HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH

3. William Baylis
4. Circa 1911-1915
5. Unknown
6. Original 1910 Consistory building at left (still extant) connected to old George Bever residence. Looking north. Consistory building faces west on 6th St. N.E., Bever residence faces south on "A" Avenue N.E.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

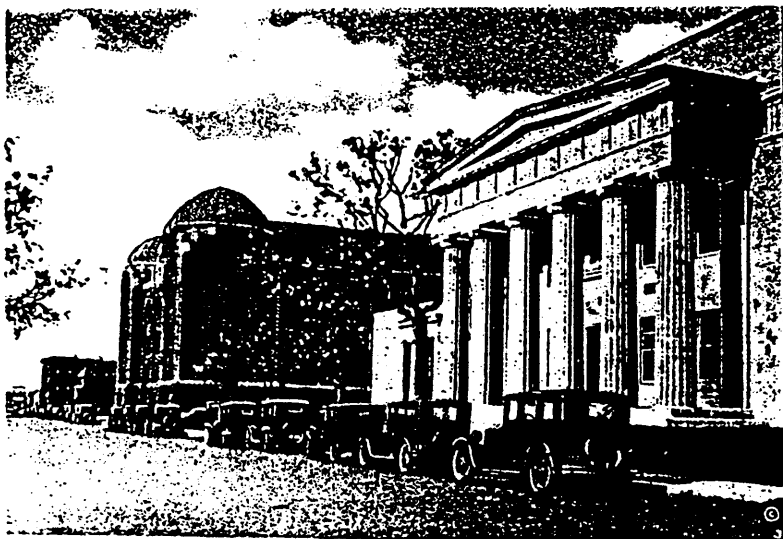
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Add'1 Page 13

Consistory Building
Linn County, Iowa

TOP PHOTO: looking west on "A" Avenue N.E. from 7th Street N.E.,
old Shriner's Temple at left (demolished 1968),
Consistory Building at right. Date: about 1930

LOWER PHOTO: Same view, looking west on "A" Avenue. Date: 1985



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 14

Consistory Building No. 2, Linn County, Iowa

The following information is common to all photographs submitted with this nomination.

Photographers Name: Mark Hunter

Date of photograph: January 1998

Location of Original negative: Cedar Rapids Historical Archives

Photo #1 - South front façade - looking east

Photo #2 - South front façade - looking west

Photo #3 - East façade - looking northwest

Photo #4 - West façade - looking northeast

Photo #5 - South front façade and elevation - looking north

Photo #6 - Detail - South façade

Photo #7 - North alley façade - looking east

Photo #8 - Original 1910 building at left, 1927 consistory at right - west facades - looking northeast

Photo #9 - West façade original 1910 building - looking northeast

Photo #10 - North façade original 1910 building - looking west