



1197

**United States Department of 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 Eau Claire Masonic Temple
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	317-319 South Barstow/306 Main Street	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Eau Claire	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Eau Claire	code 035
			zip code 54701

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.)

James Darga
Signature of certifying official/Title

9/29/07
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Eau Claire Masonic Temple

Eau Claire

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall

11.14.07

[Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- structure
- site
- 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 not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources is previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation STONE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other STONE

Narrative Description

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

Eau Claire Masonic Temple
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County and State

Wisconsin

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the 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

1899

Significant Dates

1899

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Eau Claire Masonic Temple
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- 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:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____ less than 1 acre _____

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	15	618740	4962760	3	_____		
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____			4	_____		
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Joanne Raetz Stuttgen and Eric J. Wheeler/ Consultants for:	date	July 2006
organization	City of Eau Claire	telephone	715-839-4914
street & number	203 South Farwell Street	zip code	54701
city or town	Eau Claire	state	WI

Eau Claire Masonic Temple
Name of Property

Eau Claire County
County and State

Wisconsin

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/title	Hugh Passow	date	July 2006
organization	Past Properties	telephone	715-832-2494
street&number	317 South Barstow Street	zip code	54701
city or town	Eau Claire	state	WI

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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Eau Claire Masonic Temple
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

DESCRIPTION

The historic Eau Claire Masonic Temple (1898-1899) building is located on the northeast corner of South Barstow and Main Street, three blocks south of the Confluence Historic Commercial District (concurrently nominated in 2007) in downtown Eau Claire. This three-story brick building historically had entries on both Barstow and Main streets with addresses on both streets at 317/319 South Barstow and 306 Main Street. A possible reason for this is that the first floor was designed for retail use (the first tenant was a furniture company) and the Masons used only the upper floors for their meetings. The furniture company used the main entrance on South Barstow Street and the Masons used the Main Street entrance. This dual use reflected a trend in the design of buildings for fraternal organizations where the upper floors were devoted to the lodge, while the street elevation provided income or additional financing through a secondary use.

This building was the home of the Eau Claire Masonic Lodge for over 25 years from 1899 until 1928. The Masons were a large and prestigious fraternal order; many members were leaders in the economic and social development of Eau Claire in general and the downtown business center in particular. The building was also home to a succession of furniture retail businesses from the earliest years until today. The current owner sells heritage furniture, furnishings, collectibles, and antiques of all varieties on two full floors and a mezzanine. The clearly visible pair of massive stone arches on the Barstow Street façade and other decorative elements distinguish the Masonic Temple as a fine example of H.H. Richardson influenced Romanesque Revival architecture and one of the most architecturally significant buildings in the downtown area.

Site

The Masonic Temple is situated in the Eau Claire downtown commercial core, which extends six blocks from the Eau Claire River on the north to Lake Street on the south and four blocks from the Chippewa River on the west to Farwell Street on the east. South Barstow Street runs north-south the length of this area and Main Street runs east-west through the center of the historic downtown area. The Masonic Temple faces South Barstow Street on the west and Main Street on the south and is therefore a prominent feature in the downtown architectural landscape.

A concrete city sidewalk runs the length of the west façade and continues the length of the south façade. A 10-foot alley along the rear of the building on the east side provides a narrow buffer between the Masonic Temple and a city parking lot on the east that extends to Farwell Street. To the north of the Masonic Temple, and sharing a party wall along the north side is a building that is currently a theater.

Exterior

The two and a half story upper façade facing Barstow Street is dominated by two large arches of rough-cut limestone voussoirs with a massive, similarly rough-cut keystone. The arches are additionally highlighted by an outer band of segmented stone molding. The arches sit atop a horizontal entablature supported by a pair of

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smooth limestone columns with matching plain capitals. A simple limestone sill with three recessed brick panels supports each window from below. The multi-panel opaque windows do not appear to be original. The brick façade is further ornamented by a pair of deeply grooved corner pilasters capped by colorful glazed capitals. An ornate central corbel table with quadruple arched drops adds symmetry and detail to the roofline. Originally, the cornice was further ornamented by a central pediment that was removed decades ago. The massive rough-cut arches and round arch corbel table on this façade strongly associate this building with the Romanesque Revival style so popular in the US in the last decade of the 19th century.

The street level west facade was greatly altered, likely in the mid 20th century, and has now been restored to reflect a more historic appearance. The façade currently features a period appropriate recessed entry, five section display windows and central steel support column with an Ionic capital. Above the windows in the transom area signage panels attached to wood paneling dominate the lower façade. The street level façade is bracketed by a pair of smooth brick corner pilasters with limestone capitals that support the incised pilasters above. The street level pilaster on the southwest corner of the building has the street numbers highlighted at the base and a pair of bronze bracket lamps on each face towards the top. In addition, an inscribed date-block/cornerstone in place of the capital reads as follows:

Laid by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin F. and A. M.
Jas. G. Monahan M.W.G.M.
October 31 AD 1898 A.L. 5898

The towering south side of the Masonic Temple presents a massive red brick façade running nearly 125 feet along Main Street featuring many of the Romanesque Revival motifs seen in the west façade. A broad central pavilion rises up from the grade level arched entry with three levels of fenestration topped by a parapet with a limestone capped corbelled cornice. On a smaller scale but equally impressive and detailed as the double arches on the west face, the rough-cut limestone arched entry on Main Street is supported by deeply grooved brick pilasters with intricately carved limestone capitals. These pilasters are anchored by rough-cut limestone blocks. A limestone stringcourse transverses the central pavilion at the level of these ornate capitals. Like the double arches on the west façade, the arch over the south entry is highlighted by an outer band of segmented limestone molding. The stringcourse flanking the south entry is punctuated by a rectangular window opening on the right (east), and a larger opening on the left (west) currently used for signage. Both of these openings are highlighted by limestone lintels and sills. Directly above the arched entry is a rectangular limestone panel with raised limestone border that may have been used for a sign or a nameplate. The Main Street entry had been bricked in by a previous owner, until the current owner opened up the entry and enhanced it with a colorful canvas canopy in the mid-1980s.

Continuing vertically up the central pavilion above the arched entry is a pair of centrally placed tall narrow windows with limestone sills and lintels. The window on the left has been filled in with brick. Above the pair of tall rectangular windows is a row of four round windows accented by a flush brick surround. Three of the four oculi have non-historic opaque glass replacements. The numeric theme seen in the four bulls-eye windows is

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carried into the upper level of fenestration in the central pavilion with a corbel table of four round arch windows accented with projecting brick lintels and limestone sills. A series of five corbelled drops define each of the four window openings on the upper level below the cornice. These openings are terminated by the previously mentioned limestone capped corbelled cornice.

The balance of the south façade extending to the west and east of the central pavilion is horizontally themed and less stylistically Romanesque Revival than the south entry bay and the Barstow Street façade. The street level red brick bay is punctuated by one limestone accented window and a three-panel corner display window positioned at the southwest corner of the building. This display window opening is not original and was added by a furniture company in the 1960s. A corbelled brick stringcourse horizontally defines the upper border of the first story facade. The second story features a set of five double-hung rectangular windows with limestone sills and lintels. The lintels extend east and west in a rough-cut limestone belt-course running the width of this bay from the southwest corner pilaster to the central pavilion. Above this row of windows the brick façade is windowless but ornamented with a horizontal double row of dentil-like corbel drops surmounted by a concave projecting parapet with inset brick panels similar to the panel insets on the west façade below the large second story windows. The corbel row with drops just below the panel insets also matches the corbel row flanking the arched corbel table on the west façade. The concave parapet rises to horizontally meet the base of the glazed tile capital atop the southwest fluted corner pilaster on the west end and rises slightly higher to horizontally connect with the parapet on the left of the central pavilion.

The south façade to the east of the central pavilion is a mirror image of the previously described west side with the exception of the window placement on the first story. On the east side of the façade there are three double hung windows of a similar size and scale as the single window on the west side. These windows also have rough-cut limestone sills and lintels. There is also a large service door towards the southeast corner of the first story on the east side. This opening has double metal doors with a large rough-cut limestone lintel. The two-story brick corner pilaster with ornate glazed tile multi-colored capital on the southeast corner is similar to the corner pilaster on the southwest corner of the building without the inscriptions and street numbers.

The rear of the building facing the narrow alley has an unornamented common brick façade surmounted by a stepped projecting parapet. Several rows of window and door openings match the various interior levels described below. There are a total of sixteen window openings on these various levels. There are fifteen double-hung rectangular windows with segmental arched brick lintels and one brick accented oculus. The rear/east façade also includes a grade level basement entry door opening, a multi-leveled metal fire escape and a large wooden painted signboard. The north side of the building is not visible; it is the party wall with the theater building to the north.

The fourth level of the building (or attic) extends above the parapet on the south side and is identified by the top row of windows on the rear. This attic is about 2/3 of the ground area of the building. (The interior of this area is described below.) The ribbed metal mansard roof has a flat top punctuated by a two gable roofed dormers similarly positioned on the north and south sides. The dormer on the south has two double hung wood-frame

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windows, the north dormer has two fixed frame glass panels. Projecting approximately 20 feet above the roofline is a brick clad elevator shaft positioned on the southwest corner of the attic area. The balance of the roof, approximately 1/3 of the ground area, is a flat built-up roof that is accessed by an opening on the west end of the attic.

Interior

The first floor of the interior of the Masonic Temple was designed to be a large open retail display area appropriate for a furniture store. The recessed entry leads into a large open room with maple flooring, 20 foot tall lath and plaster walls, and a highly detailed pressed metal ceiling. The pressed metal ceiling has recessed panels that run the length of the ceiling with ornamental detail around the ceiling fixtures. Floor to ceiling steel support posts run down the center of the floor at approximately 20 foot intervals. Lighting is provided by a combination of attached or suspended fluorescent panels. There are also several suspended chandeliers and ceiling fans providing additional illumination and air movement. A rounded, glass paneled mezzanine approximately 12 feet deep is located beginning about half way back from the front of the first floor display area and running along the north, east and south interior upper walls. The mezzanine is currently divided into office areas and is not original to the building. However, the mezzanine was likely built in the 1920s for the retail furniture business. The rear of the first floor has an enclosed workshop area that is closed to the public. There are two public restrooms under the north side of the mezzanine.

The side entrance from Main Street provides access to the main level through a small vestibule area that contains a stairway and elevator. The elevator runs from the basement to the top level with a total of five stops: basement, first floor, second floor, second floor balcony and attic. The elevator is operated manually with pushbuttons for each floor as originally designed. Additionally, the elevator cage has the original sliding metal collapsible safety screen, sliding doors and interior wall detail. A stairway leading from the south side entrance provides access to the mezzanine and was added by the current owner in the 1980s.

The second floor was originally designed for use as a Masonic Lodge but was likely altered when the building was converted to sole use as a retail furniture business in the mid 1920s. Like the first floor, the second floor has hard maple flooring and lath and plaster walls of nearly 20 feet in height. Unlike the first floor, the ceiling of the second floor has modern acoustical tile panels with recessed fluorescent lighting. The second floor is divided into two areas of retail space currently filled floor to ceiling with merchandise. The front or west half of the second floor is open to the ceiling. The west wall features the interior of the pair of the massive arched multi-paned windows described in the description of the exterior. The structural steel support posts on the first floor extend up through the second floor and are painted white. The rear or east half of the second floor area is defined by a 12-foot tall bridge/balcony that divides the upper level of the second floor in half from north to south. The 12 foot deep balcony then continues around the upper level of the second floor providing approximately 30% more floor area on the second level. This balcony has maple flooring and a 3-foot wooden railing that extends along the inner perimeter of the balcony. The balcony area is currently arrayed with antiquarian objects for sale. Access to the second floor balcony is provided by the elevator on the south side

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described above. There is a fire exit on the north side.

The third floor is an unfinished storage and work area with original finish in below average condition. The maple flooring, lath and plaster walls and metal ceiling all show excess deterioration. This area is not open to the public and is currently used solely for storage. The attic space is about 40 wide by 75 feet deep and only contains about one-half of the total ground area. The floor area of the attic is divided into three sections with passage doors between each section. Natural light is provided to the attic by the previously mentioned dormers on the north and south sides. The elevator extends up to the attic and there is a stairway that is not currently used.

Basement

The basement is currently used as a dance studio and has a floor-plan and room finish suited to that use. There are three dance instruction rooms with parquet wood flooring, drywall ceilings and walls, and suspended incandescent light fixtures. The lobby/waiting room area has carpeting on the floors and similar drywall ceiling and wall finish. There is a bathroom and storage area on the east end with stairway and elevator in the middle of the south wall. The dance studio partitions and finish are of relatively recent vintage and in good condition.

Integrity

Overall the Masonic Temple has high integrity on the exterior and is a fine example of a commercial interpretation of the Richardsonian influenced Romanesque Revival style of architecture. Another fine example in the downtown commercial core is the Barnes Block (1893), located three blocks to the north, which was listed on the National Register in 1982. The prominent location and street-corner exposure of the Masonic Temple make this building one of the most identifiable and architecturally significant of the historic downtown buildings. The significance of this building is further enhanced by the restoration and preservation work undertaken by the current owner over the past 20 years. The "Main Street Gallery" and "Antique Emporium" with thousands of antiquarian objects of all varieties for sale is an important and highly visible heritage tourism destination in downtown Eau Claire.

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Eau Claire Masonic Temple
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in the heart of Eau Claire's downtown commercial district, at the northeast corner of Barstow and Main Street, the Eau Claire Masonic Temple is eligible at the local level for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture. It is one of only three significant surviving examples of late-nineteenth century Romanesque Revival style architecture in a city where the style once flourished. Historically, it is the first temple erected by the Eau Claire Masons. Its successor, at 616 Graham Avenue (1928), was listed on the National Register in 1987. The period of significance corresponds to the date the building was completed and opened – 1899.

The growth of the Masonic fraternity in Eau Claire parallels the growth of the city itself. In 1857, when Eau Claire was still a nascent village, a number of local Masons petitioned St. Croix Lodge No. 56 at Hudson for permission to organize a lodge. A charter was issued to Eau Claire Lodge No. 112 in 1859. The three principal officers were Leander B. Foote, farmer and village postmaster, Delos R. Moon, a prominent lumberman, and William Pitt Bartlett, an attorney. The first home of the new lodge was on the second floor of a frame building then occupied by the Union National Bank on South Barstow Street. A few years later, the lodge moved to a second building on South Barstow Street. This lodge burned in 1864. Subsequently, the lodge moved to a building at 420 South Barstow Street, then to DeArmand's Hall on Water Street. Members had to take a ferry boat or paddle themselves across the Chippewa River. The Masons moved at least three other times.

By 1882, three additional lodges had been organized: West Eau Claire Lodge No. 162; Chapter 36, Royal Arch Masons; and Commandery No. 8 Knights of Templar. After several more moves, the various lodges organized the Masonic Temple Association and purchased a lot at the northeast corner of Barstow and Main Street.

On October 31, 1898, the cornerstone was laid for the first building erected in Eau Claire designed specifically for use as a Masonic Temple. Brother William W. Perry, a Past Grand Master, presided at the ceremony acting for the Grand Master. A year later, on October 30, 1899, a dedication ceremony was held. The building was designed by an architect whose name is unknown. The builder is also unknown, but it is very possible that Henry Laycock, a brother Mason and builder of several other Romanesque Revival style buildings in Eau Claire at this time, had the contract. The ground floor of the building was rented out to the Williams Furniture Company, a retail store. The second floor contained the lodge room. A banquet room was on the third floor.

In the years preceding and following World War I, the Masonic fraternity experienced rapid growth. In 1922, a Lodge of Perfection, the first of the four coordinate bodies of Scottish Rite masonry, was organized in the city. Its success was immediate, and the remaining three bodies followed shortly. With the establishment of the Scottish Rite Valley of Eau Claire, it soon became apparent that a much larger Masonic Temple was needed. Through the combined efforts of Eau Claire Lodge No. 112, the York Rite, and Eau Claire Consistory, a new temple on Graham Avenue was erected in 1928. The temple at the corner of Barstow and Main Street was closed and sold.

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The Masons may have moved out, but a retail business selling furniture has occupied the first floor ever since the building's opening. Williams Furniture Company was located here from 1899 to about 1923, followed by A. Leath and Company (c1923-1929), August Hansen Furniture Company (c1929-1939), Kelly Furniture Company (c1939-1985), and Purveyors on Main (1985 to the present). Purveyors on Main and the Masonic Temple building itself are owned by Hugh Passow. His business is known as Past Properties.

There have been several significant alterations to the building, all dating to the Kelly Furniture years. In 1960, the first floor storefront was altered with the installation of modern panels as shown in a color chrome postcard. A display window was cut into the south wall near the west corner. In 1986, the panels were removed and the storefront renovated to an approximate historic appearance. A side entrance in the south wall that had been previously filled was opened.¹ The interior remains relatively unchanged, with the exception of the mezzanine added during the historic period.

Architecture

The Masonic Temple is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an outstanding and intact example of the Richardsonian influenced Romanesque Revival style. The Romanesque Revival style in several variations became widely popular in Germany, England and the United States from the 1840s through 1900. The defining feature of the Romanesque Revival is the semi-circular rounded arch used for all window and door openings and wall enrichment. Broad smooth wall surfaces of monochromatic brick laid with thin mortar joints are typical. Other distinguishing motifs are belt- or stringcourses of contrasting color and material that mark horizontal divisions. Arcaded corbel tables are seen as a series of miniature arches below the eaves, horizontally or raked on the gable face. Column capitals and the archivolts of compound arches are enriched with geometric or naturalistic ornament. Heavy stone massing, particularly in the foundation walls and the large window and door arches is typical.

The historical roots of the Romanesque style can be traced to western Europe of 1000 AD to 1200 AD when the forms of imperial Roman vaulted architecture were revived and blended with local regional traditions. The Romanesque Revival first started in Munich, Germany around 1830 where it was called "Runbogenstil." Fundamentally distinct from the Gothic Revival, another popular revival building style of the 19th century, in that the Romanesque Revival utilizes rounded forms for windows and doors and the Gothic Revival typically displays pointed arched window and door openings. The Romanesque Revival style became popular throughout the second half of the 19th century in the United States for a wide variety of building types, such as railroad stations, civic buildings, schools, armories, commercial buildings, factories and high-style masonry mansions. Architects James Renwick and Richard Upjohn introduced the style in the eastern US in the 1840s,

¹ Building permits for 317 S. Barstow Street on file in the Department of Zoning and Building Permits and Inspections, Eau Claire City Hall. See also the 1987 Intensive Survey update by Ann Ohl on file in the Department of Community Development.

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although in Wisconsin and other German settled areas it may have been introduced by German immigrant architects.

American architect Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886) further popularized the style in the late nineteenth century. Richardson drew upon the forms and vocabulary of the earlier Romanesque Revival; however, his work was freer in form and is noted for the robustness of its appearance. Richardson preferred low slung, heavy arches, a general massiveness of form, masonry construction, and a preference for towers or turrets. Richardson's work was well known in his lifetime and his influence is seen in buildings around the country, including this example in Eau Claire.

The Masonic Temple is one of three other surviving examples of Romanesque Revival architecture in the city of Eau Claire. The other two are the previously mentioned Barnes Block (1893-95) at 15-21 South Barstow (NR 1987) and the late Romanesque Revival Sacred Heart Church (1928) at 418 North Dewey Street.²

Summary

In 2006, to commemorate the unique architecture and history of the Masonic Temple, the Eau Claire Landmarks Commission and Hugh Passow, owner of the property, are seeking its listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Eau Claire Masonic Temple is eligible at the local level under Criterion C as an excellent and mostly unaltered example of Romanesque Revival architecture that shows the influence of the work of H.H. Richardson. The Masonic Temple is a highly visible and architecturally distinctive landmark in the historic downtown commercial district.

² Wyatt, Barbara ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Volume 2, Pages 2-9, 2-12 "Architecture." State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1986.

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Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

BIBLIOGRAPHY

“100 Years of Freemasonry.” Eau Claire Lodge No. 112. Published by the Centennial Committee, 15 May 1959. Copy on file at the Chippewa Valley Museum.

Building permits, Department of Zoning, Building Permits and Inspections, Eau Claire City Hall.

Chrome postcard depicting Barstow Street looking northeast from Main Street, c1984- 1992. Inventory number 200102-0066-022, Chippewa Valley Museum.

“Dedication of the New Masonic Temple.” *Eau Claire Weekly Free Press*, 2 November 1899.

Eau Claire City directories.

Passow, Hugh. Personal interview with Joann Raetz Stuttgen, 12 January 2006.

Sanborn Perris maps 1916, 1931, 1958.

Taylor, Mary E. Intensive Survey Form, 15 September 1981.

Untitled essay about the history of the Eau Claire Masonic fraternity on file at the Chippewa Valley Museum. No author, no date.

“With Great Pomp [. . .] Placing of the Corner Stone.” *Eau Claire Leader*, 1 September 1898.

Wyatt, Barbara ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Volume 2. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986

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Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Eau Claire Masonic Temple is defined the lot lines of Lot 6 Block 16 Village (now City) of Eau Claire. The Masonic Temple sits entirely on this lot. This rectangular parcel has 52.75 feet of frontage on the west side facing South Barstow Street and equally on the alley bordering the east lot line. The north and south lot lines extend 125 feet deep, the south line bordered by Main Street. The parcel size is estimated to be about 6594 square feet or about .15 acre.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass the immediate setting of the historic site of the Masonic Temple and correspond to the historic parcel for the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section photos Page 1

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PHOTOGRAPH DESCRIPTIONS:

The following information pertains to all 10 photographs:

Eau Claire Masonic Temple
Eau Claire County, Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Photographer: Eric J. Wheeler, April 2006
Negatives in the collection of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin

Photograph 1 of 10
Street scene at Barstow and Main, looking northeast

Photograph 2 of 10
West façade, looking east

Photograph 3 of 10
West façade detail, looking east

Photograph 4 of 10
South facade, looking northwest

Photograph 5 of 10
South façade detail, looking north

Photograph 6 of 10
Rear facade, looking northwest

Photograph 7 of 10
Interior of first floor, looking east

Photograph 8 of 10
Ceiling detail of first floor retail gallery

Photograph 9 of 10
Interior of second floor and balcony, looking east

Photograph 10 of 10
Elevator detail at first floor, looking south