

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 15 1976  
MAY 28 1976  
DATE ENTERED

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

**\*\* HISTORIC**  
Grand Lodge and Library of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
AND/OR COMMON  
same

### LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
415 South Main  
CITY, TOWN  
Sioux Falls  
STATE  
South Dakota  
VICINITY OF  
CODE  
046  
COUNTY  
Minnehaha  
CODE  
099  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
1

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY  | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS  | PRESENT USE   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT               | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED          | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED                   | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE              | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS             | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED              | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT              |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT                 |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                           | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL                 |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY                   |
|   |   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER fraternal |

### OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Masonic Order of South Dakota  
STREET & NUMBER  
415 South Main  
CITY, TOWN  
Sioux Falls  
STATE  
South Dakota  
VICINITY OF

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
City Hall--Assessor's Office  
STREET & NUMBER  
224 West 9th  
CITY, TOWN  
Sioux Falls  
STATE  
South Dakota

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
South Dakota Historic Sites Survey  
DATE  
October 1973  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Historical Preservation Center USD Alumni House  
CITY, TOWN  
Vermillion  
STATE  
South Dakota  
FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ancient Free and Accepted Masons have their Grand Lodge and Library in Sioux Falls. This two story local adaptation of the Neo-classic style rests upon a cut stone foundation and has a rectangular floor plan. The Lodge's flat roof has a small dome that is hidden from view at the street level. The front facade displays limestone facing while the remaining walls have a reddish brown brick covering.

Exteriorly, the structure has not changed since its construction in 1924, but the surrounding area has. Buildings on both sides of the lodge have been removed leaving the structure visible from all angles.

The north and south sides contain three rows of small rectangular windows that start at the center and extend to the back. Also appearing are two larger rectangular and three square windows. Attached to the right rear corner is the building's main chimney.

While the sides of the building are undecorated, the front facade displays a Corinthian order appearance. Fluted, coupled columns and pilaster flank each side of the entablatured main door. The entrance has a cartouche and swag decoration. Inscribed in the frieze is the lodge's name. Four decorative vases adorn the top of the attic. The first floor windows are slightly taller than those on the second and the lower openings have a slight entablature. Intermingled between those windows are swag and decorative panels.

The interior of the structure combines the refined detail of classic ornamentation along with structural innovations of the early twentieth century. The steel doors and trim painted brown to resemble wood and a nine-ton wire reinforced glass floor were unique architectural devices for South Dakota in 1924. The posterior portion of the building holds the library and has thick concrete walls.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD  |  | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC          | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING      | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION                       |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION            | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE                        |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS               | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE                      |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION               | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING             | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER                        |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899            | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION                 |  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1924 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY                | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)                |  |  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION               |   |   |  |  |

SPECIFIC DATES

1924

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Grand Lodge and Library of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, constructed in 1924, is the purest example of Neo-classic style in Sioux Falls. The combination of classic elements and internal structural innovations of the early twentieth century, such as steel doors and trim painted to resemble wood and a nine-ton glass floor, enhance the architectural importance of the structure. The use of steel and glass were unique at that time in the city.

The lodge is the headquarters for the 16,000 state members. It is, therefore, an important fraternal institution in South Dakota. The building houses one of the largest Masonic libraries in the United States with over 22,000 volumes. It also has a small museum on the second floor with objects pertaining to local and national history. Through the library, museum, and charitable deeds, the Masonic Lodge remains a significant social institution.

The Masons, chartered June 3, 1874, are probably the oldest fraternal organization in Sioux Falls. Among the early members were some of the most prominent professional and business people in the city. The decision to establish the state headquarters and library for the Masons was made in June of 1923. Construction of the lodge began on June 6, 1924 and ended in 1925.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rowe, John S., oral interview, March 18, 1975, with Scott Gerloff.

Smith, Charles A., A COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY OF MINNEHAHA COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA (Mitchell, South Dakota: Educator Supply Company) 1949.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than an acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,4 6|8,3|5,3,0 4,8|2,3|3,8,0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Scott Gerloff, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Historical Preservation Center

DATE

April 1975

STREET & NUMBER

USD Alumni House

TELEPHONE

605-677-5315

CITY OR TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

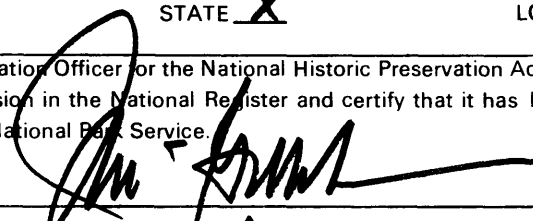
NATIONAL   

STATE X

LOCAL   

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE



1-7-76

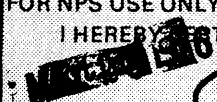
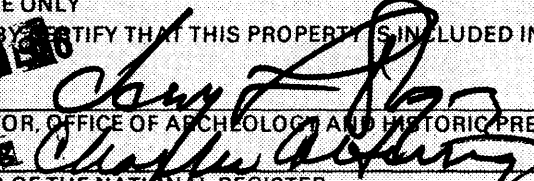

TITLE

Cult Pres Director

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

  
  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST:   
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5/28/76

DATE

5-24-76