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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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

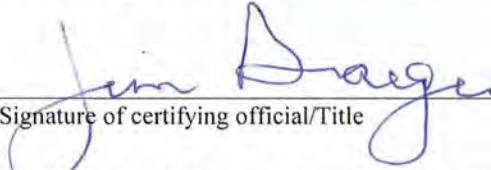
historic name Masonic Temple
other names/site number _____

2. Location

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------|---------------------|
| street & number | 508 Vernal Avenue | N/A | not for publication |
| city or town | Milton | N/A | vicinity |
| state | Wisconsin | code | WI |
| county | Rock | code | 105 |
| zip code | 53563 | zip code | 53563 |

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.)


Signature of certifying official/Title

5/26/15
Date

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

Masonic Temple
Name of Property

Rock
County and State

Wisconsin

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 W. Beall

7.21.15

[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
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 and Early 20th Century Revivals/Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof asphalt

other stone

Narrative Description

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

Masonic Temple
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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

1917

Significant Dates

1917

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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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:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

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

1 16 339440 4738160
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
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 | Carol Lohry Cartwright, Consultant | date | May 1, 2014 |
| organization | Prepared for the City of Milton | telephone | 262-473-6820 |
| street & number | W7646 Hackett Rd. | zip code | 53190 |
| city or town | Whitewater | state | WI |

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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 | Chris Wasson, Lodge Secretary | date | May 1, 2014 |
| organization | Milton Lodge 161 F & A M | telephone | 608-931-4656 |
| street & number | 508 Vernal Avenue | zip code | 53563 |
| city or town | Milton | 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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Masonic Temple
Milton, Rock County, Wisconsin

Start description on line below

DESCRIPTION

The Masonic Temple is located in the western part of Milton, a small city in southern Wisconsin. It is located on the southeast edge of the historic downtown of old Milton Junction, a separate community until 1967, when Milton Junction and old Milton formed the new City of Milton. The historic downtown of old Milton Junction is centered along Merchant Row and the intersection with Vernal Avenue. The Masonic Temple lies just east of this intersection.

The Masonic Temple's lot is flat and is not landscaped as is typical for a downtown lot. The building fills much of the lot and is surrounded by small strips of grass on each elevation. In front of the building there is a small lawn, a sidewalk, and a narrow terrace. Three mature trees sit in this terrace. Vernal Avenue is a fairly busy street in this part of Milton. It is a wide street in front of the building that allows for two-way traffic and parallel parking on each side of the street.

Exterior

Overall Characteristics

The Masonic Temple, constructed in 1916-17, is a two-story Classical Revival style building with a low-pitched hip roof, a projecting front gable and wide eaves. On three sides of the building (main or south, east, and west facades) the walls are veneered with dark red brick on the lower two-thirds of the building and medium brown brick on the upper third of the building. The medium brown colored brick is also used for the main elevation's entry pavilion. The slightly raised basement has a veneer of darker brown bricks. The rear of the building is veneered with vermilion colored brick and the raised foundation has a concrete veneer. The brick veneer is laid up in a common bond, but in the dark red brick sections, the headers are recessed from the stretchers resulting in an appearance that suggests formal stone block construction. Soffits and part of the enclosed pediment on the main elevation have been covered with vinyl siding.

Main (South) Facade

The main facade has symmetrical fenestration flanking the entry pavilion. On the second story there are two rectangular openings flanking the cornice of the entry pavilion. These openings are each filled with a pair of single-light casement windows and decorated with very shallow brick pilasters and narrow limestone-constructed footed sills.

On the first story, there are large elliptically-arched openings flanking the entry pavilion. Three-course elliptical brick arches decorate these openings. The keystone at the top of each arch is

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embellished with a raised pyramidal shaped stone. Tripartite, single-light, double-hung sash fill the openings and sit on a stone sill. A stone water table separates the first story from the basement story where there are two small, single-light, double hung sash also flanking the entry pavilion.

The entry pavilion is topped by a projecting gable that has large returned eaves. In the center of the gable is a stone plaque with the inscription "1916." The entry pavilion is framed by two large brick pilasters with stone capitals that feature cornices, a fluted frieze, and a shield with ribbon and bow accents. The pilasters sit on rounded stone bases. Between the stone capitals is a long stone plaque that reads "Masonic Temple."

Under the Masonic Temple plaque is the frontispiece that decorates the main entrance. The frontispiece is made up of several stone elements. At the top of the frontispiece there is a broken pediment decorated with an urn sitting on a base. An egg and dart molding decorates the interior of the pediment. The frieze features two projecting panels with circle motifs that sit above the capitals of the round columns that flank the entrance. The capitals of the round columns are decorated with egg and dart moldings and the columns sit on round and square bases.

A set of three stone steps leads to the entrance having two modern steel-constructed doors topped with a tall transom filled with three tall single-light windows. Two small, narrow, single-light, double-hung sash windows flank the frontispiece. Flanking the steps are two very small projecting brick planters.

Side (West) Facade

The two sides of the building are almost identical, but the west facade has an additional set of windows. On the second story there are three sets of two single-light, double-hung sash windows. Each set of windows sits on a footed stone sill and has very shallow brick pilasters. The central set of windows has a wider middle pilaster than the two sets of windows that sit on each side of the central set of windows.

The first story openings sit directly below the second story openings. They consist of a central set of two half-arched single-light, double-hung sash windows that sit under a brick elliptical arch with a keystone that has the raised pyramid seen on the main elevation's first story windows. Like the first story main elevation openings, the arch has three brick courses. The two windows are separated by a brick mullion, but are united by a stone sill that runs under both windows. The central windows are flanked by two larger segmentally arched openings that are also decorated with three-course brick arches and keystones. The openings are filled with arched single-light, double-hung sash windows that sit on stone sills.

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A stone water table divides the first story from the basement story. There are two openings in the basement story. One has a single-light, double-hung sash window. The other is enclosed with plywood. One of the interior basement rooms, the former coal room, is being remodeled into a food service area for the building.

Side (East) Facade

The east side has openings that are identical to the west side except that on the second story, it does not have the set of central windows. This area corresponds to the stage of the main lodge room on the second floor.

Rear (North) Facade

The north facade is largely undecorated. At the center, there is a red brick chimney that rises from the foundation level. On the second floor at the east side of this chimney there are three symmetrical single-light, double-hung sash windows. To the west of the chimney there is a similar window, an emergency door and a smaller single-light, double-hung sash window. The door is for emergency egress and is of metal. A metal fire escape connects the door to grade level.

The first story of the rear wall has six segmentally arched openings, five of which are filled with identical arched, single-light, double-hung sash windows with simple segmental brick arches and stone sills. The sixth opening is smaller with a segmental brick arch and an arched single-light double-hung sash and stone sill. This window has not been altered and corresponds to the kitchen in the temple interior.

The foundation level has two openings in the west part of that story. They are single-light, double-hung sash similar to those of the other elevations. Another similar opening is covered with plywood. Next to the brick chimney there is a very shallow brick enclosure with an arched opening infilled with wood paneling. This may have been where coal was transferred to the basement.

Interior

First Floor

Just beyond the main entrance is a set of wide steps leading up to the first floor meeting rooms of the temple. Directly to the left of the entrance is a staircase that leads into the basement. At the top of the main staircase is a short hall. On each side of this hall are pilasters that support large arched wood beams sitting on plain capitals. The beams are finished with a dark wood stain that is repeated throughout this level of the building. Through the arch to the right are a large dining room, kitchen,

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and bathroom. Through the arch to the left are two meeting rooms, the staircase to the second floor, and a closet. The hall floor is covered with carpeting, and the walls and ceilings are finished with plaster. Simple dark-stained wood baseboards occur throughout this floor and doorways off of the main hall are decorated with dark stained wood architrave moldings. Openings that lead to the dining room and the meeting rooms have transoms.

A set of large two-panel doors lead into the dining room. This room has a maple wood floor and plaster-covered walls and ceiling. A large wooden beam runs horizontally across the dining room ceiling. Like the hallway, trim around windows, doors, and baseboards, is of simple dark stained wood.

Along the west wall of the dining room there is a door and a set of sashes that provide entry and access into the kitchen. The door and windows are trimmed with simple dark stained wood. The door is a two-panel door and the windows have a pitted or "frosted" style opaque glazing. The kitchen is also reached by an entrance from the hallway that is covered with a two-panel wood door decorated with simple wood trim. In the kitchen there is a counter attached along the windows that open into the dining room. It has a modern laminated surface. A similar counter with cabinets below sits along the north wall and appliances sit along the west wall of the kitchen. The kitchen appears to have been remodeled in the mid-to-late twentieth century.

Across from the kitchen is the men's bathroom. It sits behind a two-panel door with an architrave molding. The interior has a wainscoted wood paneled stall and twentieth century fixtures.

At the west end of the main hall is the staircase to the second floor. Flanking the staircase are two meeting rooms. On the north side is the lodge's fellowship room. This room's entrance is covered by a set of two-panel wood doors with architrave moldings and a transom. Inside the room, just to the right is another door that leads into the kitchen. The walls of the room are plaster-covered as is the ceiling. Original milk glass and brass light fixtures hang from the ceiling. The floor is covered with narrow maple boards. The trim around the windows and the baseboards are similar to that of the rest of the floor.

Across the hall from the fellowship room are a set of entrances, both two-panel wood doors with architrave moldings. The east entrance leads into a closet and has no transom. The west entrance leads into the meeting room for the Masonic women's auxiliary, the Order of the Eastern Star. This meeting room is smaller than the fellowship room and is carpeted. Plaster covers the walls and ceiling. Architrave moldings decorate the interior of the entry door as well as a door at the back of the room that leads into the women's bathroom. The bathroom has a mid-twentieth century appearance with a painted floor, walls paneled to look like ceramic tile, a sink, and toilet stall.

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Second Floor

The staircase to the second floor features dark stained wooden steps and is enclosed so that there are only simple balusters on each side. At the top of the second floor staircase is a small enclosed foyer with entrances that lead into the anteroom for the main lodge room on one side and to the attic of the building on the other side. Like the first floor, the entrances are covered with two-panel doors with architrave moldings, all darkly stained like the first floor. This door type and trim repeats throughout the second floor.

The anteroom is a small foyer-like room designed for gathering before entering into the other areas of the floor. It is carpeted and has plaster walls and ceiling. Wood trim and baseboards are simple and there is a picture rail with hooks along the anteroom's walls. At the far end of the anteroom is a narrow hallway running along the rear of the lodge room. It leads to another anteroom and closet. Off of the anteroom is the formal entrance into the lodge room. The entry into the lodge room is covered by a two-panel door decorated with architrave molding. At the end of the hallway, the entrance into the second anteroom and closet area has a simple wood door with plain wood molding. Like the anteroom, the hallway has a picture rail attached to the plaster walls and ceiling. The floor is carpeted.

The main lodge room takes up two-thirds of the second floor. It is carpeted and has an arched ceiling of acoustical panels. The walls are covered with plaster and feature both chair and picture rails. The floor is covered with carpeting. Window trim and baseboards are dark stained wood similar to those in the rest of the building. At the far end of the room is a large raised area with three ornamental chairs sitting under a massive broken wood pediment and frieze that rest on flanking plastered pilasters.

On each side of this room there are rows of wooden theater-style chairs that sit on wood flooring. On one side, there are a smaller number of these chairs, and the rest of the space is furnished with ornamental chairs and a lectern. The back of the room also features a small stage with a single chair and pillars flanked by two plastered pilasters. Flanking this stage are two entrances, one that leads back into the main anteroom and the other that leads into the back anteroom and the closets. They are filled with two-panel wood doors and decorated with architrave moldings. The back anteroom and closet area is largely undecorated.

Basement

The basement is divided into several rooms. At the end of the basement staircase there is a foyer off of which there is a storage room, the old coal room, and the furnace and utility room. These areas take up most of the west half of the basement. The remainder of the basement is a large room that is

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partially finished with modern drywall surfaces. It was used at one time as a game room, but now is being used for storage.

___ End of Description of Physical Appearance

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Masonic Temple
Milton, Rock County, Wisconsin

Insert Statement of Significance

SIGNIFICANCE

The Masonic Temple is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a locally significant, distinctive example of the Classical Revival style in Milton. Although there are few buildings in Milton of this style, the Masonic Temple stands out for its individual style characteristics and historic character. It has well-preserved classical details and features a high level of construction materials and methods. Particularly distinctive are the three colors of brick used on the wall veneer and the overall proportion of the details to what is a relatively small building. The interior carries on the classical details of the exterior with distinctive wood trim and elegant spaces. The period of significance is 1917, corresponding to the completion of the building.

Historical Background

The Masonic Temple was built in old Milton Junction, but it had a long relationship with old Milton as well. Like most communities in Wisconsin, the Masons of both old Milton and old Milton Junction were the oldest fraternal group established in the community. And, like most communities in Wisconsin, interest in the Masons came with some of the earliest settlers in Milton.

Masonry came to Wisconsin as early as the 1820s at Fort Howard, now Green Bay, when a group of ten Masons met in December of 1823. Seven were army officers and three were civilians, and in 1834 they established an official lodge. It dissolved in 1830, probably due to the scant population in the state and decreasing activity at Fort Howard. By 1840, lead miners and others had started to populate the southwestern portion of Wisconsin, which became a territory in 1836. Many of these settlers were from southern Illinois or further south, and so when nine Masons wanted to form a lodge at Mineral Point, they requested a charter from the Grand Lodge of Missouri, which was granted in 1842. Soon, other lodges were established in the lead mining region of southwestern Wisconsin.¹

Next to southwestern Wisconsin, the most active area of the state was the area around Milwaukee, and Masons founded the first Milwaukee lodge in 1843. Three masonic lodges gathered in Madison in December of 1843 for a convention where they agreed to form a Grand Lodge of Wisconsin to oversee the growth and development of Masonry in the fledgling territory. The interest in establishing a Masonic structure in Wisconsin so early in the state's development came from the association of many of the most notable leaders of the territory with Masonry, including Henry Dodge, territorial governor

¹ Allan E. Iding, ed., *Forward Freemasonry A History of Freemasonry in Wisconsin Vol. 1* (Dousman, Wisconsin: Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin, 1996), 31-45.

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Masonic Temple
Milton, Rock County, Wisconsin

and Byron Kilbourn, one of the founders of Milwaukee and a significant businessman in early Wisconsin.²

During the 1840s, 1850s, and 1860s many of the earliest settlers in communities throughout southern Wisconsin were middle class Americans from New England, especially from New York State, and like the settlers in southwestern Wisconsin, they brought an interest in Masonry with them to their new communities. This was the case for Milton, although due to the proximity of both old Milton and old Milton Junction, the history of the Masons in this community is a bit different than in other communities.

Masonic Lodge No. 161 was founded in old Milton in 1866 and for the first five years, the Masons met in a downtown hall operated by the temperance group, the Good Templars. In 1870 an interesting partnership with another fraternal group, the Odd Fellows, brought about a change in the Masonic Lodge's location. The Masons helped the Odd Fellows erect a fraternal hall in old Milton Junction in 1870 and moved to that location, renting space from the Odd Fellows. Between 1877 and 1880, the Masons operated the fraternal hall and rented space to the Odd Fellows and other organizations. In 1884, a new building was completed in old Milton Junction for the Odd Fellows and shortly after, the Masons left for different quarters in downtown Milton Junction.³

In 1912, the Masons again began to meet in the Odd Fellows Building, but in June of 1916, they broke ground for this building, across the street from the Odd Fellows building. The local newspaper reported the ground breaking ceremony and indicated that the new Masonic Temple would be a brick structure of two stories with a basement. In the fall of 1916, it was reported that the temple work had slowed due to a delay in getting the building materials, but by the end of October of 1916, the brickwork was completed and the roof was being constructed. In April of 1917, the Masons announced that the building was complete enough to begin having meetings there. Finally, in July of 1917, the Masons reported that their building was officially complete. A dedication ceremony was hinted at, but because of the United States' entry into World War I, a date was never given and the dedication was, perhaps, a private affair.⁴

² Ibing, 45-58.

³ Ibing, 132; Carol Lohry Cartwright, *Architectural and Historical Survey of Milton, Wisconsin* (Milton: City of Milton, 2013), 70.

⁴ Ibing, 133; "Ground Broken for Temple," *Milton Journal-Telephone*, June 22, 1916, 1; *Milton Journal-Telephone*, September 7, 1916, 5 and October 22, 1916, 5; "Masonic Temple Nearly Complete," *Milton Journal-Telephone*, April 12, 1917, 1; "New Masonic Temple Complete," *Milton Journal-Telephone*, July 26, 1917, 1.

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Masonic Lodge No. 161 has operated in this building since 1917 and the organization is almost 150 years old in the community. The lodge has regular meetings and a lively group of members who continue the traditions of this historic fraternal group.

Statement of Significance: Architecture

The Masonic Temple is locally significant and eligible for the National Register because it is a fine example of a small Classical Revival building, and, in fact, is the best example of the Classical Revival style in Milton. The Classical Revival style, also known as the Neoclassical Revival style, became popular almost “overnight” due to the influence of the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The so-called “white city” of classical buildings, painted white, was a highly popular attraction and soon the style was being used for many commercial, public, and institutional buildings. The heavy classical details of the style, such as massive columns, large pediments, and decorative friezes did not lend themselves to residential construction, but the style was used extensively for post offices, Masonic Temples, schools, and courthouses.⁵

Milton, as a small community, does not have an abundance of Classical Revival buildings. According to the 2013 Architectural and Historical Survey of Milton, the Masonic Temple is one of two significant buildings built in the Classical Revival style. The other building is Whitford Hall on the campus of the former Milton College, which is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This building is a large early twentieth century classroom building. The Masonic Temple, while smaller is also distinctive, although, very differently detailed than Whitford Hall. Also according to the survey, classical details can be found on a few commercial buildings of the two downtowns of Milton (old Milton and old Milton Junction). However, these details are very simple and the buildings cannot be categorized specifically as Classical Revival. This factor makes the Masonic Temple stand out, but its stylistic details make it distinctive.

The Masonic Temple has the typical form and massing of a small classical building of a type constructed in many small towns in the first part of the twentieth century. Its plan is formal and symmetrical, for the most part, and the large pediment and classical entry pavilion feature standard details of the style, including columns, a frieze, egg and dart molding, and pilasters. The fenestration is very symmetrical, particularly on the main elevation and the side elevations are identical save for one window unit. Even the rear of the building, largely undecorated, has mostly symmetrical fenestration.

⁵ Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1989), Architecture, 2-18.

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Masonic Temple
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What is particularly distinctive about this small example of the style is its proportion and its building materials and methods of construction. Small buildings could very easily be overwhelmed by the heaviness of classical details, but the classical details of this building are very well matched to its size. The columns and other details are not so large in proportion to the building that they become the overwhelming focal point. Yet, they are large enough to provide the formal appearance of the building that was desired by the Masonic organization.

The other distinctive feature of this building is its construction materials and methods. On large Classical Revival buildings, there is often a different type or finish of stone or brick at the upper or parapet level than at the foundation or first story levels that gives these buildings a very formal and heavy appearance. This type of construction method is achieved on this building through the use of three colors of bricks; one at the foundation level, a second on the first story, and a third on the second story. Also, the way the bricks are laid on the first story, with headers recessed from stretchers, suggests a form of rusticated stone block construction, very typical of much larger buildings of this style.

The use of tripartite or paired windows is another typical classical detail on larger buildings. This is also seen on the Masonic Temple. The elliptical arches and formal keystones also add to the classical appearance of this building as does the use of pilasters. In fact, the pilasters are subtle and shallow, perfect for the size and scale of this small building.

The interior of the building also has unexpected classical details. In a small building of this type, it would be expected that the wood trim and doors would be simple. But in this building, there are unusual architrave moldings around almost all the doors and large arches decorate the entryways into each side of the first floor. The high quality of the two-panel doors and the wood trim and baseboards throughout the building add to its historic character. And, the additional classical motifs in the main lodge room are well executed and decorative.

Masonic organizations favored classical designs for their buildings in the first decades of the twentieth century, not just because they were popular, but because they reflected the group's association with early American figures and the classical motifs that were popular during the first decades of the national government. In this building these ideas were so successfully carried out that a few years later, the Masonic Lodge members in Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin, traveled to Milton to view their lodge and decided to build the Palmyra Masonic Temple in an almost identical design.

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Milton, Rock County, Wisconsin

Integrity

Adding greatly to the significance of this building is its overall integrity. On the exterior, the original brickwork, windows, and classical details are all extant. Only the main doors have been replaced, several foundation windows altered, and some vinyl siding applied in the soffit areas. Additionally, the area at the gabled-end returns has been infilled. These alterations do not significantly detract from the overall integrity of the building.

The interior has had some minor changes: some carpeting was installed as was a mid-twentieth century ceiling in the lodge room. All of the high quality wood trim, doors, and other details are extant and the floor plan is almost entirely intact.

The building meets all of the criteria for historic integrity. Its location, setting, and historic associations are intact. The physical condition of the building and the lack of significant alterations results in few compromises to the building's historic materials and methods of construction, workmanship, and feeling. The design of the original building is intact and it is still being used for its historic purpose.

Significance Conclusion

The Masonic Temple is locally significant for architecture as a fine and distinctive example of the Classical Revival style. Its overall design, high quality of materials and methods of construction, and integrity make it stand out in Milton not just for the Classical Revival style, but as one of the best historic buildings in the community. For these reasons, this building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Acknowledgments

The activity that is the subject of this Nomination has been financed entirely with Federal Funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, and administered by the Wisconsin Historical Society. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior or the Wisconsin Historical Society. Nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior or the Wisconsin Historical Society.

___ End of Statement of Significance

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Masonic Temple
Milton, Rock County, Wisconsin

Insert References

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cartwright, Carol Lohry. *Architectural and Historical Survey of Milton, Wisconsin* (Milton: City of Milton, 2013).

“Ground Broken for Temple,” *Milton Journal-Telephone*, June 22, 1916, 1.

Iding, Allan E., ed. *Forward Freemasonry A History of Freemasonry in Wisconsin Vol. 1.* (Dousman, Wisconsin: Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin, 1996).

“Masonic Temple Nearly Complete,” *Milton Journal-Telephone*, April 12, 1917, 1.

Milton Journal-Telephone, September 7, 1916, 5 and October 22, 1916, 5.

“New Masonic Temple Complete,” *Milton Journal-Telephone*, July 26, 1917, 1.

Wyatt, Barbara ,ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1989), Architecture.

___ End of References

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

Masonic Temple
Milton, Rock County, Wisconsin

___ Insert Boundary Descriptions

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary for this property is as follows: Morgan's Addition, part of the NE ¼ of Lots 35 and 36, except the Northern 53 feet. The meets and bounds description is as follows for this parcel: Beginning at the intersection of the south lot line and the west lot line of 508 Vernal Avenue, then north 95 feet along the west lot line to the intersection with the north lot line, then east 131 feet along the north lot line to the intersection with the east lot line, then south 30 feet along the east lot line to the intersection with the south lot line, then west 148 feet along the south lot line to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The justification for this boundary is that it has been the lot location and size that the building has occupied since its original date of construction in 1916-17.

___ End of Boundary Descriptions

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section **Photos** Page 1

Masonic Temple
Milton, Rock County, Wisconsin

Insert Photo Descriptions

Name of Property: Masonic Temple
City or Vicinity: Milton
County: Rock County
State: Wisconsin
Name of Photographer: Carol Lohry Cartwright
Date of Photographs: December 2013, May, 2014
Location of Original Digital Files: Historic Preservation Division, Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State St., Madison, WI 53706

WI_Rock County_Masonic Temple_0001
Site view, camera facing northeast

WI_Rock County_Masonic Temple_0002
Main facade, camera facing north

WI_Rock County_Masonic Temple_0003
Main and east facades, camera facing northwest

WI_Rock County_Masonic Temple_0004
East facade, camera facing northwest

WI_Rock County_Masonic Temple_0005
North (rear) facade, camera facing south

WI_Rock County_Masonic Temple_0006
Main facade, detail of main entrance, camera facing north

WI_Rock County_Masonic Temple_0007
Interior, first floor, taken from foyer

WI_Rock County_Masonic Temple_0008
Interior, first floor, looking at west wing of building with staircase to second floor

WI_Rock County_Masonic Temple_0009
Interior, first floor, looking into dining room in east wing

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section **Photos** Page 2

Masonic Temple
Milton, Rock County, Wisconsin

WI_Rock County_Masonic Temple_0010
Interior, first floor, dining room pass through to kitchen

WI_Rock County_Masonic Temple_0011
Interior, first floor, entrance into fellowship room

WI_Rock County_Masonic Temple_0012
Interior, first floor, fellowship room

WI_Rock County_Masonic Temple_0013
Interior, first floor, Order of the Eastern Star room

WI_Rock County_Masonic Temple_0014
Interior, second floor, anteroom for main temple lodge room

WI_Rock County_Masonic Temple_0015
Interior, second floor, lodge room, looking south

WI_Rock County_Masonic Temple_0016
Interior, second floor, lodge room, looking north

___End of Photo Descriptions

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

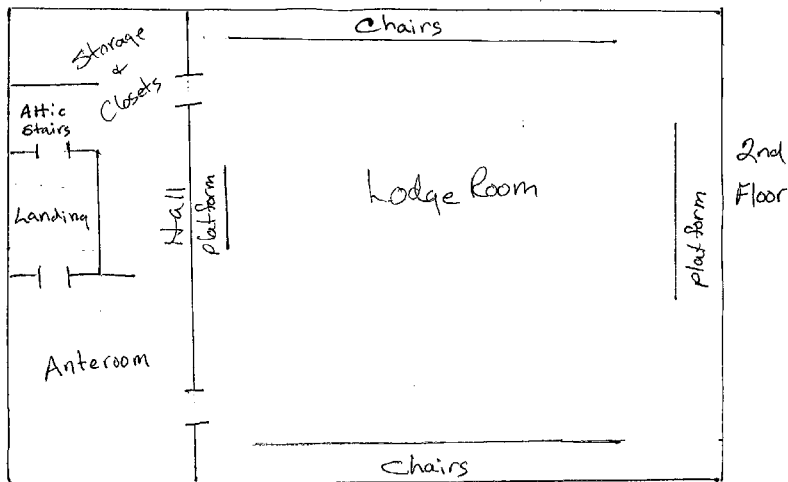
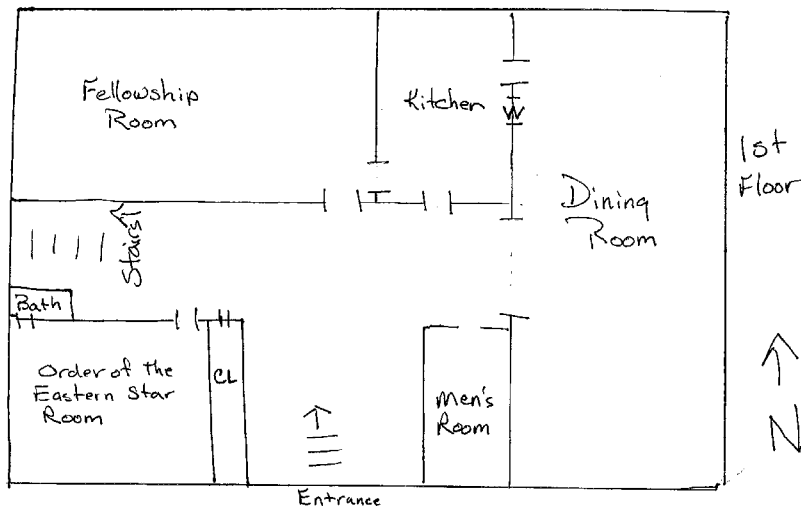
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section **Figures** Page **1**

Masonic Temple
Milton, Rock County, Wisconsin

___ Insert Figures

Sketch Floor Plans, not to scale.



___ End Figures



FIRST
VERNA

FIRST
FIDELITY
BANK
Drive-Up

15



MASONIC TEMPLE

SIE



NO
PARKING
2:00PM
TO 4:30PM

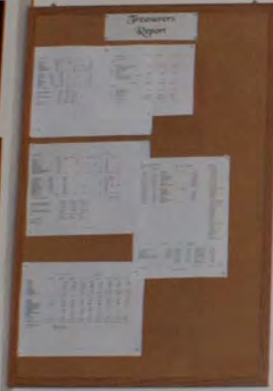




MASONIC TEMPLE



508





Ladies Room



Wesleyan Lodge # 118
Wm. Wesleyan



















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Masonic Temple

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Rock

DATE RECEIVED: 6/05/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/07/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/22/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/21/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000458

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: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7.21.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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.



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

RECEIVED 2280

JUN - 5 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

TO: Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 28th day of May 2015,
for the nomination of the Masonic Temple to the National Register of Historic Places:

1 Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form

1 CD with NRHP Nomination Form Word Document

 Multiple Property Nomination form

16 Photograph(s)

1 CD with electronic images

1 USGS map(s)

1 Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

 Piece(s) of correspondence

 Other _____

COMMENTS:

 Please insure that this nomination is reviewed

 This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67

 The enclosed owner objection(s) do _____ do not _____
constitute a majority of property owners.

 Other: _____