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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Arlington Masonic Temple
Other names/site number: Arlington Community Museum
Name of related multiple property listing:

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

2. Location

Street & number: 222 S. Main St.
City or town: Arlington State: South Dakota County: Kingsbury County
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.
I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following
level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
X A ___ B X C ___ D

<u>Gary D. Vogt</u>	<u>12-20-2016</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>SD SHPO</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

2/27/17
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

WOOD: Weatherboard

CONCRETE

ASPHALT

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Arlington Masonic Temple is a one-and-one-half story wood-frame rectangular eclectic (Queen Anne/ecclesiastical) building with a steeply-pitched front-gabled roof. It stands on two level lots on the west side of Main Street, north of the intersection with Ash Street. A yard, planted to grass, occupies the rear of the lots. An unpaved alley borders the property on the west. It is east-west oriented and built over a rock-face concrete block basement.¹ At the building's northeast corner, an engraved cornerstone with a Masonic symbol reads "Erected 1908, W.E. Milligan, Grand Master." Exterior walls are covered in clapboard. The front gable end is covered in decorative wood shingles consisting of alternating triple rows of fish scale and inverse-scallop patterns, capped by diamond pattern shingles in the peak. The rear gable end is covered with diamond pattern wood shingles. There is a small bracketed pent roof extension near the peak of the front gable. Walls also feature a wood drip cap and water table at the base, as well as pilaster-like corner boards. Windows throughout are, generally, wood, paired or single, with various leaded glass patterns in the upper frame. The façade (east wall) of the building features a prominent, round, second-story stained glass window exhibiting the Masonic symbol. The roof is covered in architectural asphalt shingles. Roof features include a wide eave overhang, a brick chimney in the south slope, and two triangular eyebrow-dormer vents in both the north and south slopes.

The building is in good condition, is largely unmodified, and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It continues to convey its historic and architectural associations.

Narrative Description

East (Front) Façade

At the north end of the front façade, there is a large door opening filled with a modern steel faux-panel door with wood side panels. This is capped by a wood-frame transom composed of a pair of single-light vertical rectangular windows beneath a leaded horizontal pane. South of the entry,

¹ The streets in Arlington run southwest-northeast and southeast-northwest. Thus, the lots and the Arlington Masonic Temple are sited diagonally. Though the front façade actually faces southeast, to simplify the architectural description for the purposes of this nomination, it shall be considered to face east with the subsequent elevations adjusted accordingly.

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a large distinctive window opening is centered in the wall. Paired single-hung wood-frame one-over-one windows (with smaller diamond leaded upper lights) capped by four wood panels, are visually unified with the prominent circular stained glass masonic window centered above. These windows share connected wide wood trim including pilaster-like trim on the outside edges. The large round stained glass window features the Masonic symbol, a Masonic square and inverted compass with a "G" in the middle. The Masonic symbol is within what looks like a keystone and is surrounded by web-like stained glass panels. The overall effect of the central window fenestration is much like a church window with a rosette.² A wood-frame cottage window with smaller diamond leaded upper lights, is located at the south end of the façade. The façade is further ornamented with a decorative pent roof, supported by scrolled brackets, a wide vertical bead board frieze in the gable, and multiple wood shingle patterns in the gable end.

South Elevation

The south elevation has two triangular eyebrow dormer vents in the roof. The south wall contains a door opening at the west end and two basement window openings. The door opening is filled with a modern hollow-core door and is accessed by a simple wood landing with a 2 x 4 railing and three wood steps. The basement window openings have been partially filled in with cinder blocks. One of them also contains 12 glass blocks, while the other contains four glass blocks and a wood-frame one-light awning window. There is also a metal vent low on the south wall.

West (Rear) Elevation

The west gable end contains a window opening filled with a pair of wood-frame, double-hung sashes. The lower sash is single-light, while the upper has decorative star-patterned muntins. Remaining west wall features are limited to a protruding air conditioner (installed in 2012) and a basement window opening. The basement window opening is filled with cinder blocks and 12 glass blocks.

North Elevation

The north elevation has two triangular eyebrow dormer vents in the roof. Features on the north wall are limited to a pair of basement window openings. The basement window openings have been partially filled-in with cinder blocks. One of them also contains 12 glass blocks, while the other contains four glass blocks and a vinyl-frame, one-light awning window.

² This window in combination with the front gable form and large hall with upper loft, lends to the historic reference that the building was built in the "ecclesiastical style." ("Masonic Temple Dedicated: New Building Is Formally Dedicated According to Ancient Rites and Customs, "November 17, 1908, photocopy of clipping, Arlington Community Museum.

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Interior

The interior of the Arlington Masonic Temple contains two distinct spaces. Stairways and several smaller rooms, including an upper level viewing room, occupy the eastern (front) end of the building, while the remainder of the interior contains a large open hall that takes up the western three-quarters of the building. The front entry (east façade) opens to a landing at the base of a short flight of stairs leading up (west) to the main floor. Basement stairs descend to the west. West of the landing, at the top of the main stairs, double wood-panel doors open into the main masonic hall. South of the same landing, a single door leads to two small rooms used as offices/coat rooms. The first of these office spaces contains an enclosed stairwell that leads to the upstairs viewing chamber, which looks out over the main hall through a wall of large sliding windows. The main hall is a rectangular space designed to host Masonic rituals and ceremonies, with raised platforms running along the sides and a raised stage at the west end. The basement of the building is mainly open, with two small rooms (one of which is a kitchen) occupying the southeast corner, and the remainder undivided.

The interior of the Masonic Temple retains several original details, the primary exception being the large hall space itself, which now serves as museum exhibit space. The main hall retains its open plan, with removable museum displays, as well as its full one-and-one-half story height. The raised stage at the west end of the main hall remains, and now contains Masonic artifacts and memorabilia. In keeping with the secrecy of masonic rituals, the paired window at the top of the west wall is covered by early paneled and louvered bi-fold wood interior shutters. Opposite this, the east wall of the main hall features original sliding windows that overlook the main hall over a low wall of beadboard. This separates the main hall from the upper loft or viewing room. The windows are tall four-pane wood sashes with semi-transparent frosted glass. The main hall also features original hanging light fixtures. Changes in the main hall include a carpeted floor, and faux wood paneling on the ceiling which do not appear to be original. Many other original or early character-defining details are found throughout the building. The original paneled wood double doors between the entry stair landing and main hall feature an early commemorative metal door knocker with a Masonic symbol over a plate reading "To Garfield Lodge / No. 28 A.F. & A.M. / In memory of / J.R. Brann W.M. / 1940." These doors have their original transoms with semi-transparent frosted glass. Doors throughout the main level are original, featuring five horizontal rectangular wood panels. The front office area and upstairs viewing chamber have original maple flooring, baseboards, corner molding, closets, and trim, as well as an original built-in bench. Leading to the upstairs viewing chamber, there are walled stairs with simple base molding and, at the top, a wood railing that features turned spindles and a square newel post with notched molding below the cap. At the exterior wall of the viewing room is the stained glass window with the Masonic symbol in a wide wood surround.

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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 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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social history

Architecture

Period of Significance

1907-1966

Significant Dates

1907

1908

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

George Issenhuth (architect)

W.H. Eastman (builder)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Built in 1907-1908 for Garfield Lodge # 28 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Denver Chapter #17 Royal Arch Masons, and the Order of the Eastern Star, the Arlington Masonic Temple is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its significance at the local level in the area of social history. The building is an important local reminder of the prominent role fraternal organizations played in encouraging social order, promoting moral character, participating in charitable endeavors, and engaging in gender-exclusive socialization throughout South Dakota's history. The Arlington Masonic Temple is also eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its significance at the local level in the area of architecture. Designed by Huron architect George Issenhuth and constructed by area contractor W.H. Eastman, the eclectic Masonic Temple is a small town vernacular interpretation of a Masonic Temple. It combines elements of Queen Anne and ecclesiastical architecture, and is one of only a handful of Masonic buildings in the state known to be constructed of wood. The wood construction, coupled with the eclectic design, makes the Arlington Masonic Temple a rare South Dakota resource.

The period of significance begins in 1907, the year construction began, and ends with 1966, the standard 50-year mark recommended by the National Register. The building continued to be used by local Masons until 2010 when it was deeded to the City for use as the Arlington Community Museum.

The building is in good condition, is largely unmodified, and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It continues to convey its historic and architectural associations.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion "A" - Social History

THE ORIGINS OF FREEMASONRY IN AMERICA

It is unknown precisely when Freemasonry was formed. Commonly accepted theories trace it to the Roman Colleges of Artificers prior to the fall of the empire, and subsequent stonemasonry guilds in Western Europe during the Middle Ages.³ The theory is that actual masonry craftsmen were early-on supplemented in the colleges and guilds by distinguished men who were admitted as honorary members though they were not professionals of the craft. Eventually the numbers of

³ Michelle Dennis, "Rapid City Masonic Temple," National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination form, SD SHPO files, November 2015; Liz Almlie, "Scottish Rite Masonic Temple (Yankton)," NRHP nomination form, SD SHPO, 23 January 2013.

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non-professionals exceeded craftspeople and freemasonry became a “speculative” rather than “operative” term; it became a fraternal organization with emphasis on social order.⁴ Non-builders were drawn to Masonic customs, practices, ritual, and philosophy.

Masonic Lodges were recorded as forming in England by the early 1700s, spreading through Europe and to the American colonies by the early 1730s.⁵ As strong as the appeal of Freemasonry’s biblical and classical references, achievement by degrees, and fraternal bonds was, the taproot of Freemasonry in America was its identification with the principles of the Enlightenment, including “the equality of man, the triumph of reason, science and the principles of natural law.”⁶

In the American colonies, Freemasonry was integral to America’s quest for independence. Many of America’s early leaders were Masons. Benjamin Franklin noted Masonic “meetings in Philadelphia in 1731.”⁷ George Washington, himself a Mason, “encouraged the establishment of military lodges in the Continental Army. At least nine signers of the Declaration of Independence were Masons, as were countless ordinary citizens in whom patriotism and fraternalism merged . . . craftsmen, artisans, consumers, shopkeepers.”⁸ Masonic values “nourished the movement for American independence.”⁹

In the Revolutionary era and after, “the symbols of Freemasonry were entwined with—and often identical to—the symbols of patriotism, nation-building, and democratic values.”¹⁰ Masonic symbols “frequently . . . appeared in American decorative arts” of the period: “the all-seeing eye and the pyramid on the great Seal of the United States on the dollar bill” continue this legacy.¹¹

In America early Freemasons met in taverns, inns, and homes.¹² There was little control over individual lodges. Freemasonry suffered decline in the 1830s after critique from political and religious leaders due to rowdy tavern meetings and other alleged brash, even illegal, behavior conducted in the name of protecting the order’s secrets.¹³ During this decline, freemasons focused on organizing charitable programs, and in the 1840s and 1850s on revised and standardized rituals to help gain control and rebound membership. The rituals, pulled from history, legend, and religion, provided members with “intellectual and emotional sustenance.”¹⁴

⁴ Almlie, “Scottish Rite Masonic Temple.”

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Mimi Handler, “Masonic Symbols: Decorating Our History,” *Early American Life*, XXIV (Aug. 1993), 46–49, from South Dakota State Archives, Vertical File - “Masonic”.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Almlie, “Scottish Rite Masonic Temple”, Handler, “Masonic Symbols.”

¹⁴ Almlie, “Scottish Rite Masonic Temple,” 12.

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During and after the Civil War, Masonry enjoyed a reversal of fortune as interest and membership grew nationwide. The golden age for the Ancient Order of Free and Accepted Masons in America, during which they reached their peak influence, power, and enrollment, was between 1870 and 1930. In 1879 there were around 550,000 Masons in the U.S, and by 1925 the number grew to over 3 million.¹⁵

The four modern Masonic organizations include the Blue Lodge, the York Rite, the Scottish Rite, and the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.¹⁶ Their activities are as follows:

The four organizations use a complex system of symbols and allegorical figures to put members through courses of instruction on universalistic human and masculine ethics. The lessons are compiled from world (primarily Indo-European) knowledge traditions and are abstracted from chronological time. To further create that abstraction, the Blue Lodge, Shrine, and Order of the Eastern Star each developed its own method of dating the calendar year. Masonic teaching heavily focuses on character development, as well as the virtue and prestige of its members. Each local group organizes discrete financial assistance for its members in need...and national organizations have taken on specific charitable causes, like the Shriner's children's hospitals and the Scottish Rite's fundraising for speech pathology programs and higher education.¹⁷

FREEMASONRY IN SOUTH DAKOTA

The Arlington Masonic Temple was built between 1907 and 1908 for Garfield Lodge No. 28, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Denver Chapter No. 17 Royal Arch Masons; and the Order of the Eastern Star. Their Grand chapters were all established in South Dakota (or Dakota Territory) in the 1880s. Garfield Lodge No. 28, A.F. & A.M. would have been known as a Blue Lodge. Blue Lodges "include the first three degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craftsman, and Master Mason."¹⁸ There are a number of organizations that stem from freemasonry often referred to as appendant bodies. The Royal Arch Masons are a chapter of the appendant York Rites conferring additional degrees. The Order of the Eastern Star is the women's auxiliary group.

By the time the Garfield Lodge No. 28 was established in 1882, the Freemasons had been an organized presence in Dakota Territory for twenty years. In April 1862, a Masonic lodge was established at Fort Randall, but "the population was small and mostly soldiers and they were constantly changing and it quickly ceased to exist."¹⁹ Later that year, several men petitioned to

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid, 13.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Hon. George A. Pettigrew, "Freemasonry in Dakota for First Time in 1862," n.d., Vertical File: Masonic Lodge, South Dakota State Archives.

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start a lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (A.F. & A.M.) at Yankton. The organization, St. John's No. 166 (of the jurisdiction of Iowa), received its charter on June 3, 1863. Thus, the dissemination of Masonry into Dakota Territory can be traced as follows: England - North Carolina – Tennessee – Missouri – Iowa - Dakota Territory. St. John's No. 166 remained the only lodge in Dakota Territory for six years, until Incense No. 257 Lodge of Vermillion was chartered February 10, 1869. Others soon followed, including Elk Point Lodge No. 288 (April 16, 1870), Minnehaha Lodge No. 328 (June 10, 1870), and Silver Star Lodge No. 345, at Canton (June 3, 1875).²⁰ These early lodges were committed to the “close relation of the triumvirate, masonry, religion, and public schools.”²¹

On June 22, 1875 the Lodges, now numbering five, met at the Elk Point Lodge. “These delegates were empowered to form a grand lodge of Freemasons within and for the territory of Dakota. This convention adopted a constitution and by-laws and elected officers for a Grand Lodge and petitioned the Iowa Grand Lodge [...] for an organization.”²² At Vermillion, on July 21, 1875, the Grand Lodge of Dakota was duly instituted in the old Baptist Church.²³

These early Masonic Lodges and their members figured prominently in regional society in this period. Many of the delegates to the South Dakota constitutional conventions of 1885 and 1889 were Freemasons, including, at the later, the two convention delegates from Kingsbury County. These men ensured that “the basic tenets of Freemasonry—Faith, Hope, and Charity—” formed a “cornerstone” of the preamble to the state constitution, and that the remainder of that foundational document reflected the “Masonic landmarks of Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice.”²⁴

South Dakota achieved statehood in 1889. In 1889, at Mitchell, representatives of 20 Lodges, from what would become North Dakota, met and organized the Grand Lodge of North Dakota. “The Lodges in South Dakota amended their constitution changing their name to the Grand Lodge of South Dakota. All monies and property were divided with satisfaction to both Grand Lodges.”²⁵ By 1904, state historian Doane Robinson reported that there were one hundred “Blue Lodges” in South Dakota with 5,444 total members.²⁶

²⁰ Doane Robinson, “Ancient Free & Accepted Masons,” *History of South Dakota* Vol 1, Chapter LXXXIX, 1904 B.F. Bowen & Co., pg 512-515. Accessed on SDGENWEB Archives < <http://files.usgwarchives.net/sd/social/af-am.txt> > Nov 8 2016.

²¹ Pettigrew, “Freemasonry in Dakota”.

²² Robinson, “Ancient Free & Accepted Masons”; Another source claims there were six lodges, adding a Mt. Zion Lodge at Springfield (Pettigrew, “Freemasonry in Dakota.”)

²³ Robinson, “Ancient Free & Accepted Masons.”

²⁴ Robert H. Benton, “Masonry in the Constitution of the State of South Dakota” n.d., Vertical File: Masonic Lodge, South Dakota State Archives.

²⁵ Pettigrew, “Freemasonry in Dakota”.

²⁶ Robinson, “Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.”

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One benefit of membership was the help provided for members during hard times. In 1890 the South Dakota Grand Lodge made plans to create “the Grand Charity Fund,” a fund for relief purposes. Sometime after the early 1930s the fund had reached \$214,000 (invested in mortgages, stocks, and bonds) and another \$100,000 from the P.F. McClure fund was added to this. George A. Pettigrew, Grand Secretary and Grand Recorder of the South Dakota Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. stated, “The interest on these funds is being used to relieve the distressed families of worthy indigent brethren within the state.”²⁷

As previously mentioned, another fraternal organization for which the Arlington Masonic Temple was constructed was Denver Chapter #17 of the Royal Arch Masons. York Rite is one of the appendant bodies of Freemasonry that a Master Mason may join to further his knowledge.²⁸ Royal Arch Masonry (also known as "Capitular Masonry") is the first part of the York Rite system of Masonic degrees. Royal Arch Masons meet as a Chapter, and the Royal Arch Chapter confers four degrees: Mark Master Mason, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason.²⁹

According to Doane Robinson, the York Rites were instituted in Dakota Territory on February 25, 1885. At that time, chapters that received charters in what would become South Dakota included Yankton No. 1; Sioux Falls No. 2; Dakota No. 3 (Deadwood); Siroc No. 4 (Canton); Huron No. 10; Watertown No. 12; Aberdeen No. 14. Then a few months later on June 8th charters were received by Mitchell No. 15; *Denver No. 17 (Arlington)*; Brookings No. 18; Orient No. 19 (Flandreau); and Redfield No. 20. The grand chapter was then organized at Sioux Falls July 8, 1885. Within a couple decades there were 29 South Dakota Chapters of the York Rite with 1,784 members.³⁰

When the Arlington Masonic Temple was dedicated in 1908, it was noted that the building would also serve as home to the Eastern Star. This is the women’s appendant body to freemasonry. Delegates from chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star at Watertown, Flandreau, Webster, St. Lawrence, Aberdeen, and Madison organized the Grand Chapter at Watertown on July 10, 1889. By 1904, just prior to the construction of the temple at Arlington, there were thirty-six chapters of the auxiliary Order of the Eastern Star in South Dakota with 2,439 members.³¹

²⁷ Pettigrew, “Freemasonry in Dakota.”

²⁸ Wikipedia, s.v. “York Rite,” <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/York_Rite> accessed 11/19/2016.

²⁹ Wikipedia, s.v. “Royal Arch Masonry,” <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Arch_Masonry> accessed 11/19/2016.

³⁰ Robinson, “Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.”

³¹ Ibid.

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THE ARLINGTON MASONIC TEMPLE

Arlington was platted in April 1880 as Nordland. In 1884 it was renamed Denver, and in 1885 renamed Arlington.³² Garfield Lodge No. 28 A.F. & A.M., organized in June 1882.³³ Charter members included Dan R. Sweezy, Wm. Ed Berke, James Holman, JW, George Henry, Treas., Ole Quam, Sec., Henry Falconer, SD., and Paige Down, JD, while other early members were A. E. Oviatte, Chas. Keith, and Tom Maquire. At the time there was no Lodge in De Smet, so many residents of the Kingsbury County seat “came to Nordland [Arlington] to take their Masonic Degrees, and later established a Lodge in that town. Brother Tom Reed, a Civil War veteran, was the first member initiated. Shortly thereafter, Brothers A.H. Hewett, A.D. Maxwell, and C.C. Maxwell received their degrees and became active lodge members and officers. These men and their fellow early Masons held meetings in a room rented in the Story & Kidder building.”³⁴

Founding members of Garfield Lodge No.28 were area businessmen and farmers. They were a vital force in the community, the “Founding Fathers,” who developed the town’s main street. The Freemasons continued “to support the community’s activities as long as the organization remained active.”³⁵ They were known for serving oyster stew to local firemen following a fire call. They were also known for supporting local education through scholarships.³⁶ They played integral and influential roles in the community, such as store and bank owners, mayors, and newspaper owners.³⁷

The Story & Kidder building originally housed the Masonic Lodge, until the 1893 fire destroyed the building. “Fortunately, it was not long before things returned to normal” in Arlington, and the local Masons continued to thrive.³⁸ They managed to save the water-soaked original charter—and only the original charter—from their rented quarters when the Story & Kidder building burned, and they moved to various temporary spaces. During that time, they continued considering construction of their own lodge, a planning process begun in 1887 when members G.S. Knipe and Ben Haas were appointed to confer with other members in regard to building a temple. The building committee was composed of Bros. W.P. Allen, A.E. Connor, Adam Royhl, R.W. Reed, and John Massar. All the while, the Arlington Masons continued to grow, as “during the late eighties and nineties Titus Allen, C.P. Waltz, E.W. Smith, M.G. Carlisle, John Massar,

³² “Early County History – Kingsbury County,” in *South Dakota Journal of County Govt.*, p.112, Vertical File – Kingsbury County, South Dakota State Archives.

³³ Note in Arlington Community Museum scrapbook. “Nordland, Denver, Arlington History,” *Arlington Sun*, June 25, 1980, Souvenir edition.

³⁴ “Garfield Lodge-1882,” *Arlington Sun*, June 25, 1980, Souvenir Edition.

³⁵ Deloris Gilbertson to Jennifer Brosz, email correspondence Nov 14 2016. Information provided by Marlys Reierson.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Frank Crisler to Jennifer Brosz, email correspondence. 11/11/2016. Frank Crisler, editor of the *Arlington Sun* commenting on local masons’ stature in local history.

³⁸ Frank Crisler, “Masonic Temple Hits a Century,” *Arlington Sun*, n.d., Arlington Community Museum; South Dakota Association of County Commissioners et al., “South Dakota Journal of County Government.,” 112.

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Adam Royhl, Dr. Francis Schoonamaker, A.E. Connor, Peter Haars, [and] William Pickering, to name a few, were added to the membership.”³⁹

In October 1907, Thomas Reed, on behalf of the “Garfield Lodge #28, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and Denver Chapter #17 Royal Arch Masons” purchased lots 11 and 12 in Block 6 of Albert Keep’s First Addition to the Town of Nordland [Arlington] from Thomas’ wife Margaret. The next month’s edition of the *Improvement Bulletin* reported that Huron architect George Isenhuth [a.k.a. Issenhuth] had “plans for a Masonic temple to be erected” at Arlington.⁴⁰ The construction contract went to area contractor W. H. Eastman, and the Temple was dedicated a little over a year later, in November 1908. The local newspaper covered the dedication in detail:

The formal dedication of the Masonic Temple in this city took place last Thursday evening, the ceremonies being conducted by Past Grand Master Milligan, of Aberdeen, assisted by a number of officers of the Grand Lodge and visiting brethren from neighboring cities and towns. The building was inspected by the Grand Lodge, and was found to be in every way a worthy building for the purpose. The temple is a fine building, 40 by 70 feet in size, of ecclesiastical style of architecture, and forms an ideal home for the various Masonic bodies of this city. The entire building is finished in a most workman-like manner, and is a credit to the contractor, W. H. Eastman, who has in this built a monument to himself as a painstaking and conscientious builder. The ceremonies of dedication were not of wearying length, and were replete with interest to those who understood the allusions and significance of the ritual. Following the dedication, short speeches were made by a number of the visiting brethren, in which the kindest things were said of the lodge and its members, and the building which was now completed for their future use. The program was further enlivened by musical selections by the Masonic male quartet, instrumental music by Mrs. Albert Royhl, and by several selections by the Sioux Falls orchestra, which had been engaged for the occasion. Following the program in the hall, the company adjourned to the banquet hall, where a repast had been prepared by the ladies of the Eastern Star. The banquet was of such abundance and variety that even those of the most robust appetite gave over in despair before they had proceeded to the end of the menu. The ladies certainly proved themselves worthy and capable sustainers of the Order, and the corn, wine and oil with which the temple had been dedicated were exemplified in the feast of material good things which were spread before the assembly. The opera house had been secured by the lodge for the occasion, and those who did not care to spend the entire evening in the more sober pleasures of quiet converse tripped the light fantastic to the excellent music, which had been provided. The ball was not largely attended, but a most enjoyable time was spent by those who cared for the entertainment. The Masonic bodies of the city are at present in a flourishing

³⁹ “Garfield Lodge-1882.”

⁴⁰ *The Improvement Bulletin*, v.35, November 2, 1907, pg. 24. See "Theatres and Halls: Arlington, S.D."

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condition. While the older members are adding themselves to the retired list, younger men are coming to the front and are taking their places. The Star is also in a healthy, growing condition, and promises to grow in strength. The three bodies now have a home in which they will be able to entertain themselves and friends in comfort, something which they have not been able to do heretofore, and good things are predicted for them in the years to come.⁴¹

The new Masonic Temple quickly became a cornerstone of the Arlington community. Masons met there regularly, and they also hosted gatherings for the broader community, like the high school commencement in 1910.⁴² The community stature of local masons, as well as the organization's role in the community, ensured that the Masonic Temple loomed large in local affairs. The 1917 funeral of beloved doctor Francis H. Schoonmaker, who had served Arlington since 1887, exemplified this fact. When Schoonmaker died in March of that year,

a great many attended his funeral. For several hours previous to the final services, his body rested in the Masonic Temple where it was viewed by hundreds of the doctor's friends from the immediate and surrounding communities. The services were conducted by Rev. J.H. Kearton in the Church of Christ. Also participating in the services were the Knight Templars, the Masons and Members of the Eastern Star.⁴³

Schoonmaker's funeral punctuated a period of growth for the Garfield Lodge: "during World War I, many of the servicemen became members . . . and activity was high following the war."⁴⁴

When hard times set in and it became financially difficult for would-be members to join the fraternity, at the suggestion of Dr. N.K. Hopkins a number of life memberships were issued for a sum of \$100 which allowed the Lodge to remain viable. On May 10, 1921, Garfield Lodge raised its 100th member. By late 1926, the Temple was completely paid for. This put the lodge on relatively stable footing despite the depressed economy, and "on Nov. 10, 1932, while A.J. Quinn was Master, Garfield Lodge celebrated its 50th anniversary. During this time several brothers were presented with their 50-year medals, and all Past Masters were given their Past Master jewels."⁴⁵

Many local "members served in the armed forces in WWII, and during the Korean conflict," and in the post-war period the town's American Legion Post No. 42 "took over much of the Masons

⁴¹ "Masonic Temple Dedicated: New Building Is Formally Dedicated According to Ancient Rites and Customs," November 17, 1908, Arlington Community Museum.

⁴² "Lars Madson 1881 Pioneer," n.d., Arlington Community Museum. Note in scrapbook of Arlington Community Museum.

⁴³ Walter W. Hewett, "Dr. F.H. Schoonmaker Memorial Monument," *Arlington Sun*, June 25, 1980, Souvenir edition.

⁴⁴ "Garfield Lodge-1882."

⁴⁵ Ibid.

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role in town.” Arlington Mason “numbers started to dwindle.”⁴⁶ But the Garfield Lodge hung on, thanks in large part to “Bros. Dr. N.K. Hopkins, Leon Dill, Ben Rasche, and George Reed [who] contributed their services to keep the lodge active in good times as well as in hard times.” In 1957, when the Master was Everett Dill, the Arlington Masons celebrated their 75th anniversary. “For this occasion, a banquet was held in the Methodist Church with many Grand Lodge officers in attendance. The nearby Brookings Lodge No. 24 A.F. & A.M. were invited and took an active part in the festivities as they too were celebrating their 75th anniversary.”⁴⁷ The 1957 gala produced no significant renewal for the lodge, but it nonetheless maintained itself in subsequent years. The Masons invested some in the interior of their temple, adding white paneling in the main hall around the 1970s, and in 1980 they placed an ad in the retrospective souvenir edition of the *Arlington Sun* proclaiming the Lodge’s hope to continue community service for years to come. That paper featured an overview photo of the town in which the Masonic Temple was clearly visible, and the caption of the photo hinted at the role the Masons had played in the Arlington community for almost 100 years: “what you cannot see in the photo is the close association of business, industry, government and social organizations which have made Arlington one of the best places to live and work in Eastern South Dakota.”⁴⁸

At that point, the “Masons were still a vital force in Arlington. The best of the local businessmen, and their wives, were members.”⁴⁹ But those members “were growing old, and the sons and grandsons of the original Masons [were] not new members drawn to the organization.”⁵⁰ The lodge nonetheless maintained its temple for another 30 years. By 2008, there were “still 38 registered members of Arlington’s Masonic order,” but “only a few of them [were] still active.”⁵¹ On Sept. 16th, 2010, Dale Anderson, as Master of the “Garfield Lodge #28 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and Denver Chapter #17 Royal Arch Masons” deeded the Masonic Temple property to the Arlington Community Historical Museum Society.⁵² The deed stipulated preservation in place of the temple’s distinctive stained glass window, and also directed that the Masons’ photo of George Washington must remain in place. The “pictures and mementos” of the Arlington Masons were deeded with the temple itself.

The new owners immediately began planning renovations, including “a new front door, electrical updates and lighting for museum displays, repair of the front windows, the back door enlarged to make a handicapped-accessible entrance, a ramp leading up to that door, outside of the building painted, and a new roof.”⁵³ In 2011, they added track lighting to illuminate museum displays.⁵⁴

⁴⁶ Frank Crisler, “Arlington Museum Launches \$10,000 Drive for New Roof,” *Arlington Sun*, n.d.; “Garfield Lodge-1882.”

⁴⁷ “Garfield Lodge-1882.”

⁴⁸ “The Arlington of Years Gone By,” *Arlington Sun*, June 25, 1980.

⁴⁹ Crisler, “Masonic Temple Hits a Century.”

⁵⁰ Crisler, “Arlington Museum Launches \$10,000 Drive for New Roof.”

⁵¹ Crisler, “Masonic Temple Hits a Century.”

⁵² Kingsbury County deed records, Book 45 (of misc.), Page 992, Sept. 16, 2010.

⁵³ “Masons,” n.d., Arlington Community Museum.

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The following year brought a new cement entry sidewalk, a new railing at the front door, new exterior paint (using information known about the original paint scheme), landscaping by the local FFA group, and a new sign.⁵⁵ The Arlington Community Museum continues to use and preserve the building. As such, they preserve the history of the significant social influence of the Freemasons on the little community of Arlington.

Criterion “C” – Architecture

FRATERNAL ARCHITECTURE IN SOUTH DAKOTA

The earliest masonic groups in America met in taverns, inns, and homes.⁵⁶ “Most Masonic lodges desired to build their own structures both to communicate ideals of the order to the community and to express civic pride by adding to the landscape of their cities.”⁵⁷ In South Dakota, construction of fraternal halls was a popular activity from the late 1890s to c.1915.⁵⁸

The earliest known general fraternal halls were built at Yankton, most likely by members of the German and German-Russian fraternity known as Turnverein. The Germania House was a brick building with “false-fronted dormers” constructed in 1874.⁵⁹ Turner Hall was a brick fraternal hall constructed in Yankton in 1879.

Most South Dakota fraternal halls of the late 1800s, and some in the early 1900s, were shared-space buildings: Generally large, brick, commercial buildings with stores on the street level and a fraternal hall above. Some separate fraternal organizations pooled their resources to construct a freestanding structure for shared use. Others had the means to build their own hall. The materials and manifestation of popular stylistic details generally depended on the number or means of members providing financial resources for the project. Urban areas with a broad membership base usually constructed high-style architect-designed local landmarks, while smaller communities exhibited more vernacular interpretations.⁶⁰

Illustrating these trends, in 1892 in Sturgis, “the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, and United Workmen, pooled their resources ... to build a 50 x 120 ft. iron-fronted Benevolent Hall Association temple. In 1899, Masons built a three-story stucco-covered structure of Moorish, Romanesque Revival, and Italian Villa influence near downtown Aberdeen.”⁶¹ Built in 1902,

⁵⁴ “Arlington Community Museum,” Preliminary Assessment Form, National Register File – Kingsbury County, “Arlington Masonic Temple,” SD SHPO, Pierre, SD.

⁵⁵ *Arlington Sun* August 16, 2012.

⁵⁶ Handler, 49.

⁵⁷ Almlie, “Scottish Rite Masonic Temple,” 19.

⁵⁸ David Erpstad and David Wood, *Building South Dakota* (Pierre, SD: SD State Historical Society Press, 1997), 178.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶¹ *Ibid.*

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designed by W.R. Parsons and Sons, the Yankton Masonic Temple was an imposing, brick, Romanesque Revival structure. In contrast to the high-style freestanding Masonic buildings, the c.1902 Masonic Temple in Chamberlain was “a house-like Colonial Revival structure.”⁶² Similarly, the Masons and I.O.O.F. in Cantistota teamed up in 1900 to build a symmetrical, two-story, wood-frame fraternal hall on a residential street. It had shallow two-story gabled wings bumped out at the front and back of each side elevation. A centered gabled wall dormer on the front façade featured a circular window or panel with a large masonic symbol (compasses, square, and “G”), as well as vernacular classical references similar to the Arlington Masonic Temple.⁶³

ARCHITECTURE OF THE ARLINGTON MASONIC TEMPLE

The Masonic Temple in Arlington, built between 1907 and 1908, reflects the prominence of the fraternal organization in the community and also the local vernacular interpretation of broader trends in architecture. It was built to the highest standards of workmanship within the means of the local Masonic community. The dedication news article in 1908 praised the local contractor for accomplishing this task: “The entire building is finished in a most workman-like manner, and is a credit to the contractor, W.H. Eastman, who has in this built a monument to himself as a painstaking and conscientious builder.”⁶⁴

The Arlington Masonic Temple was constructed at a transitional time between the Queen Anne and Classical Revival styles in the U.S. This is evident in the unique eclectic architecture of the building. The Queen Anne influence is evident in the varied shingle patterns in the gable end and the bracketed pent roof near the peak. The classical pilaster-like corner boards and trim near the stained glass window and overall symmetry reflect Classical Revival. When the building was dedicated it was called an ecclesiastical style. This may stem from the gable front form with the church-like central round stained-glass window, and the interior hall-and-loft plan. The interior also has vernacular construction detail. The loft or overlook area has door trim molding that, from a distance, looks like beads or egg-and-dart, but upon closer inspection are simple staggered notches.

In South Dakota, surviving examples of Masonic Temples built of wood, like Arlington’s, are rare. As of 2004, thirty Masonic buildings in South Dakota had been surveyed, and only the Mount Moriah Lodge in Kadoka, SD is known to be made of wood. Kadoka’s Mount Moriah Masonic Lodge #155 built their two-story, rectangular, wood frame Masonic hall in 1917. It has a hipped roof and centrally located neoclassical entry and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2004.

⁶² Ibid., 180.

⁶³ Ibid., 179.

⁶⁴ “Masonic Temple Dedicated,” Nov. 17, 1908, clipping in files of Arlington Community Museum.

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ARCHITECT GEORGE ISSENHUTH

The Arlington Masonic Temple is also a rare example of a Masonic Temple design by South Dakota architect George Issenhuth. Issenhuth, an architect out of Huron, was born in 1862, in Marshalltown, Iowa. Issenhuth's family came to Dakota Territory around 1880. He first worked as a builder and contractor, then transitioned into the business of architect. He set up an architectural office in Huron in 1906 and worked as an architect in South Dakota until about the mid-1930s. He died January, 15, 1941 in Sioux Falls where he had been living with his son. At the time of his death, Issenhuth was best-known for having designed numerous schools throughout South Dakota.⁶⁵ The designs ranged broadly depending on the client. Several were multi-story frame or masonry schools with hipped roofs and a bumped out central entry tower. He also designed frame one- to four-room rural schools. He showed similar range in church designs between approximately 1907 and 1918. Issenhuth designed many commercial and bank buildings, as well as residential buildings in South Dakota. In 1910 he designed a 3-story brick/terra cotta office and business building in Huron for H.J. Rice that also served as the I.O.O.F. Hall.⁶⁶ He also designed power plants, heating plants, State Fair exhibit buildings, barns, and even the Brookings City Hall/Fire Hall.⁶⁷ At least three of South Dakota's Carnegie Libraries are attributed to Issenhuth: The Canton Carnegie (1913); The Wagner Carnegie (1915); and the Sisseton Carnegie (1915).⁶⁸

Though Issenhuth designed an array of school, church, commercial, agricultural and residential buildings in South Dakota, the Arlington Masonic Temple is the only documented freestanding Masonic building in his oeuvre.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

History of Kingsbury County

Although settlement started in the 1860s in the far southeast of the territory, by the dawn of the 1870s, "the line of settlement advanced rapidly up the James, Vermillion, and Big Sioux rivers and across the intervening prairies once considered suitable only for stock-raising. Home seekers also advanced into Brookings, Hanson, Hutchinson, Lake, Moody, and Turner counties."⁶⁹ As settlement spread, government surveyors carved the land into conveyable legal parcels. Brookings County was organized in 1871. At that time it included parts of current

⁶⁵ South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, "SD Architect File" ; *Daily Plainsman (Huron)*, "George Issenhuth Dies This Morning." January 14, 1941.

⁶⁶ *The American Contractor* 31 (May 28, 1910), 21.

⁶⁷ SD SHPO, "SD Architect File"

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Herbert S. Schell, *History of South Dakota*, 3 Revised edition (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1975), 109.

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Moody, Lake, and Kingsbury counties in addition to all of the current Brookings County.⁷⁰ In 1873, Kingsbury County acquired its present boundaries.⁷¹ By the mid-1870s the settlement at Oakwood, about fifteen miles northeast of what became Arlington, was one of the region's three principal settlements, one of three mail destinations that enjoyed weekly mail service from Medary.⁷²

The ten years between 1878 and 1887 witnessed unprecedented migration into the region, a phenomenon since known as “the Great Dakota Boom.” Pulled by the availability of federal land and good weather conditions for agriculture, and pushed by an economic recession in the east, people poured into Dakota Territory.⁷³ The Great Dakota Boom reflected and reinforced the spread of railroads throughout the region. Railroads needed crops and customers for profit, and railway companies zealously promoted Dakota as their tracks pushed over the Plains.⁷⁴ Track-building and town-building went hand-in-hand. As the Dakota Central division of the Chicago & Northwestern built toward Dakota from Minnesota in the summer of 1878, “settlers began to stream into Brookings County and the eastern part of Kingsbury” before the rails even reached the border. To “facilitate the process of building a railroad, the company first determined the route and then marked prospective townsites with ‘sidings’—small shacks along the right-of-way.”⁷⁵ By the fall of 1879, “the railroad was graded and ironed as far as Volga,” and construction crews showed no signs of slowing down.⁷⁶ Ten years later, the new state of South Dakota boasted 2,500 miles of railroad.⁷⁷

Railroads shaped not only the pace but the geography of non-Indian settlement in eastern Dakota. In cases, the arrival of the railroad led to the wholesale re-orientation of settlements. Numerous “railway towns received their first permanent residents from nearby hamlets that were doomed to extinction when railroad surveyors passed them by. Brookings, for instance, drew from Fountain and Medary.”⁷⁸ In this way, “the railroads quickly defined a map of eastern South

⁷⁰ Donald Dean Parker, *Pioneering in the Upper Big Sioux Valley: Medary, Sioux Falls, Dell Rapids, Flandreau, Brookings, Watertown* (Santa Fe N.M.: publisher not identified, 1967), 35.

⁷¹ South Dakota Association of County Commissioners et al., “South Dakota Journal of County Government.,” *South Dakota Journal of County Government.*, April 1956, 87.

⁷² Parker, *Pioneering in the Upper Big Sioux Valley*, 63. See also Donald Dean Parker, “Out of the Past,” *Brookings Register*, August 11, 1975, Vertical File: Oakwood Lakes, South Dakota State Archives. Reportedly, a Native American resident, probably John Wakeman, carried mail from Oakwood to Flandreau via Medary in the fore part of the week.”

⁷³ Scott Heidepriem, *Bring on the Pioneers! History of Hand County* (Miller, S.D.: Heidepriem, 1978), 13.

⁷⁴ Schell, *History of South Dakota*, 160.

⁷⁵ Heidepriem, *Bring on the Pioneers! History of Hand County*, 9.

⁷⁶ Schell, *History of South Dakota*, 161.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid., 167.

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Dakota that looks much the same today.”⁷⁹ This map reflected the fact that it was now “the rails rather than the resources deciding where towns would go.”⁸⁰

The railways also sprouted brand new towns at regular intervals along their trunks. As the Dakota Central stretched west from the Big Sioux to the James, promoters platted towns like “Nordland (now Arlington), Lake Preston, De Smet, and Iroquois.”⁸¹ These trackside settlements served not only townspeople but also the droves who determined to establish farms on the surrounding prairies. As tracks crisscrossed the country, “landseekers rapidly occupied the area within ten or twelve miles of the railway,” resulting in a burgeoning rural population.⁸² In the three years between 1877 and 1880, Brookings County’s population grew from fewer than 250 to almost 5000. By 1885 it totaled 8,288, and by 1890 10,132.⁸³ In adjacent Kingsbury County, “within two or three years after the railroad had been built, practically all parts of the county were occupied and nearly all the land had been entered as tree claims, pre-emptions or homesteads.”⁸⁴

This influx fed the town economic hubs that sprang up beside the tracks, and settlements soon offered almost every conceivable service and amenity. Main streets sprouted hotels and livery stables, general stores and drug stores, blacksmiths and harness-makers, implement dealers and lumber yards and gristmills. Newspapers went to press, doctors and dentists set up shop, and attorneys and real estate offices proliferated, keeping busy with abundant land deals in the booming towns and the countryside around.

A thriving cultural life attended the abundant economic activity. Early residents sent their children to fledgling schools and affiliated with various churches and political groups. They rapidly augmented these institutions with farm, “fraternal and social organizations, local improvement societies and other civic organizations, local units of temperance unions, and reading circles.”⁸⁵ Town residences, some quite substantial, radiated out from main street commercial cores.

History of Arlington

Arlington epitomized this trackside town trajectory. It was platted in April 1880 as Nordland, “‘at the instance and request’ of Albert Keep, a Chicago railroad tycoon [and] the president of the Western Town Lot Company, which established towns along the route of the railroad he was

⁷⁹ Frank Crisler, “Before There Was Arlington . . .,” *Arlington Sun*, June 23, 2004.

⁸⁰ Frank Crisler, “Oakwood Town Founded in 1877 by Veterans of Civil War,” *Arlington Sun*, July 9, 2015.

⁸¹ Schell, *History of South Dakota*, 162.

⁸² *Ibid.*, 166.

⁸³ Parker, *Pioneering in the Upper Big Sioux Valley*, 44.

⁸⁴ South Dakota Association of County Commissioners et al., “South Dakota Journal of County Government.,” 112.

⁸⁵ Schell, *History of South Dakota*, 184, 224. Fraternal lodges in Miller (sessions 38)

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building over the prairie.”⁸⁶ Like other area railroad towns, the new settlement of Nordland drew both newcomers and established area residents. “Arlington’s start came in two towns not far north . . . Pleasant Valley, on the north banks of Lake Thisted . . . about nine miles northwest, and Oakwood, on the banks of one of the Oakwood Lakes chain about 15 miles northeast.”⁸⁷ Traffic between Oakwood and Arlington wore a substantial trail across the prairie. Locals knew it as “the Mitchell Trail.”⁸⁸ Among those who came from the Oakwood area was A.D. Maxwell, considered the founder of Arlington, who quit his lakeside claim in 1879 and, with his wife Charlotte Gilmore, opened a hardware store on the north side of the railroad right-of-way at what would soon become Nordland. The following year, “the town site was laid out” and the first trains arrived.⁸⁹ Other prominent residents in the new town of Nordland included Elbert Wilbur (E.W.) Smith, who had come to Oakwood in 1877 and then, a few years later, moved to Nordland, where he “went on to found [a newspaper later known as] the Arlington Sun” in 1885. Smith later, in 1903, became the town’s first mayor.⁹⁰

Like Smith and Maxwell, other “people followed the railroad, moving in from surrounding areas and from points east.”⁹¹ By “the spring of 1881 the entire business section of the town was on the present main street. At that time there were two grocery stores . . . the Maxwell hardware, and a drug store” as well as a blacksmith, a hotel, etc.⁹² Within a year Albert Keep platted his first addition to the original townsite, and by 1884 the town boasted a population of over 200.⁹³ A series of name changes attended the town’s early growth. Nordland, nicknamed Muskrat Town “because of the large number of muskrat pelts marketed here in the early 1880s” became Denver in 1884, and the following year it was re-christened Arlington.⁹⁴

But even while the boom began, economic and environmental challenges arose. The Arlington area suffered alongside the region’s other settlements. Local residents recalled that, until 1896, “it was hard times for the colonists out here . . . hailstorms, black rust, and spells of drought . . . the land was hardly worth anything.”⁹⁵ Farmers in the surrounding countryside “were hit by depression. They had gone into debt to buy machinery and when the collapse came in 1893 many of them were forced to leave their land and move away.”⁹⁶ As it struggled in conjunction with its rural customer base, the town of Arlington also faced trials of its own. Like many early towns,

⁸⁶ “First Document of Nordland Platted Town in April 1880,” n.d.; “Arlington: Town with Three Names,” *Sioux City Journal*, April 9, 1944, Vertical File: Arlington, SD, South Dakota Historical Society State Archives.

⁸⁷ Crisler, “Before There Was Arlington . . .”

⁸⁸ “Oakwood Township” n.d., 5, Oakwood Lakes State Park.

⁸⁹ “A.D. Maxwell, Pioneer Business Man,” n.d., Arlington Community Museum.

⁹⁰ Crisler, “Oakwood Town Founded in 1877 by Veterans of Civil War”; “Arlington: Town with Three Names.”

⁹¹ Crisler, “Before There Was Arlington . . .”

⁹² Milton Sturges, “A Brief History of Arlington,” *Arlington Sun*, July 6, 1972, Vertical File: Arlington, SD, South Dakota Historical Society State Archives.

⁹³ Crisler, “Before There Was Arlington . . .”

⁹⁴ “First Document of Nordland Platted Town in April 1880”; “Arlington: Town with Three Names.”

⁹⁵ “Christensen Brothers Were Pioneers.”

⁹⁶ South Dakota Association of County Commissioners et al., “South Dakota Journal of County Government,” 112.

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Arlington's business district faced numerous devastating fires that compounded broader economic woes. Much of the downtown burned in 1888, and again in 1893.⁹⁷ This second fire raged through a main street that was by then home to an impressive array of establishments in what boosters described as "the brightest, liveliest, and richest town in South Dakota of its size."⁹⁸ Arlington's population had topped 400 a few years before, and the town supported a grocery store, a furniture store, a book and variety store, two drug stores, two shoe stores, two millinery stores, three hardware stores, and five general merchandise stores. A bank, a barber, a butcher, and a pair of blacksmith shops served the settlement as did a newspaper, a photographer, a lawyer (E.W. Smith), and two doctors. Other services included a wagon shop, a harness shop, a lumber yard, a livery stable and a dray line as well as a hotel and a pair of restaurants. A grade school served Arlington students, and two churches (Methodist and Baptist) accommodated residents. Serving a large agricultural region, Arlington supported no fewer than five grain elevators in addition to a 100-bushel capacity flouring mill.⁹⁹

In this period, Arlington was also home to an impressive array of civic societies. In January 1890, the town newspaper listed the Ancient Free & Accepted Masons (A.F. & A.M.), Denver Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons (R.A.M.), Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.), the Ancient Order of United Workmen (A.O.U.W.), the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), the S.O.V., the W.R.C., and the Arlington Silver Cornet Band as well as the Danish Brotherhood, all of which it described as prosperous organizations. "There are three large and well-arranged halls for the accommodation of these societies, besides the opera hall."¹⁰⁰ New fraternal organizations also appeared in interwar Arlington, which in 1921 was home to the new American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary groups. These groups thereafter took an active role in particular aspects of the local community. The women's American Legion Auxiliary, for instance "helped by sponsoring Special Olympics, Scholarships, Americanism, Poppy Day, Girls State, Child Welfare."¹⁰¹

If the late-nineteenth-century trials slowed growth in South Dakota, they did not stop it. A variety of strategies sustained many of the young state's residents through the turn of the century, when the Plains boomed again. This period of renewal brought visible changes to Arlington's built environment. In 1902, the town welcomed a new "wooden Catholic Church" and two years later workers completed a "feed and flour mill which was the largest in South Dakota . . . with a capacity of 120 barrels of flour a day."¹⁰² With the 1907 arrival of the Great Northern, a second

⁹⁷ "Arlington-West Side Main Street Looking North at the Time of the Disastrous Fire in 1888," n.d., Arlington Community Museum. "Fire of 1893," n.d., Arlington Community Museum.

⁹⁸ George A. Hall, *Kingsbury County: A County to Behold, in a State to Behold* ([South Dakota]: [G.A. Hall], 1993), 41-42.

⁹⁹ Hall, *Kingsbury County*, 41-42.

¹⁰⁰ "An Early Issue of the Sun, a 93 Year Old Newspaper," *Arlington Sun*, June 25, 1980, Souvenir edition.

¹⁰¹ Ad in June 25, 1980 Souvenir Edition of the *Arlington Sun*.

¹⁰² "O.T. Nelson Prepared An Excellent Summary of Arlington's Progress," *Arlington Sun*, June 25, 1980, Souvenir edition.

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railroad served the settlement.¹⁰³ By 1908, the *Arlington Sun* was officially up and running in a “small printing shop.”¹⁰⁴ And soon the town enjoyed its “first still movies.”¹⁰⁵ By 1910, 791 people called Arlington home, and that number grew to 884 in 1915 and to 1,011 in 1920.¹⁰⁶ Government services and other amenities expanded with the growing population. Arlington’s fire department was organized in 1914, and the Farmer’s Elevator was built the following year.¹⁰⁷ Hauling grain to the new elevator soon got easier: in 1919, Kingsbury County “started the work of laying out a county highway system, and building highways.”¹⁰⁸

The agricultural and economic difficulties of the 1920s and ‘30s affected the Arlington area much as they did the rest of South Dakota. In 1920, Arlington counted 1,011 residents and in 1925, 977 residents.¹⁰⁹ For the next twenty years, population declined. By 1935, Kingsbury County “had a farm population of 6,832 and a total population of 11,569.”¹¹⁰ In 1925, neighboring Brookings County’s population peaked at 17,320. Ten years later, Brookings County’s population stood at 15,055.¹¹¹ Arlington itself weathered the 1920s and ‘30s relatively well, with significant investment by a spectrum of entities in its infrastructure in the interwar years. In 1925, local Lutherans completed St. John’s Church and Parsonage. The next year, the Co-op Creamery opened and did well enough to need a new brick building in 1928. A Texaco station served the town by the end of that year, as did Arlington’s first water tower. A processing plant called Tracy Produce opened in 1930, and for several years employed as high as 96 people at a time. At the same time, another cooperative endeavor, Co-op Oil, opened for business. Several years later, “Harold Holm opened the Trail Café.”¹¹² By the end of the 1930s, Arlington also had a new library and Board of Trade, as well as a new Gamble’s store and Crandall Bros. appliance and hardware store.¹¹³

Post-war economic and demographic trends impacted Arlington in visible ways. Although the town suffered another major fire in 1941—when City Hall, the North American Creamery, a carpenter shop, a filling station, and a garage burned—the 1940s years brought significant infrastructure improvements. By 1944, promoters described Arlington as follows: “In close proximity on the north is a beautiful lake region where game and fish are abundant. Modern in every way, the town has hard surfaced streets, good water and sewer systems,” and a “new municipal auditorium, which houses the fire department and city officer, as well as providing

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ Hall, *Kingsbury County*, 41.

¹⁰⁷ “O.T. Nelson Prepared An Excellent Summary of Arlington’s Progress.”

¹⁰⁸ “John Bonde—Great Asset to Arlington,” *Arlington Sun*, June 25, 1980, Souvenir edition.

¹⁰⁹ Hall, *Kingsbury County*, 41.

¹¹⁰ Donald Dean Parker, *History of Our County and State: [Kingsbury County]* ([Brookings, S.D.]: South Dakota State College, 1960), 95.

¹¹¹ *Early Residents of Brookings County, South Dakota. Census Data for 1860-1870-1880*, iv.

¹¹² “O.T. Nelson Prepared.”

¹¹³ Ibid.

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adequate facilities for large gatherings and public dinners.”¹¹⁴ Arlington stood on the fringes of one of South Dakota’s growing regions: by 1950, Brookings County, the edge of which runs through Arlington, boasted a population of 17,851, up from 15,055 just five years earlier.¹¹⁵ Within town limits, building projects and new civic organizations testified to Arlington’s vibrancy. By the end of the 1940s, the Dakota Bible College (associated with the Church of Christ), a new city auditorium (originally begun but not finished by WPA), a new gravel business (started by Sam Torgrude Construction Co.), the Co-op Propane and Gas Co., the Isaac Walton League, and a new Antonen welding and repair building, among others, had come to town. The 1950s brought the Pheasant Motel, a laundry mat, a new public swimming pool, and a “new athletic ball field.”¹¹⁶ In the 1960s, a bowling alley, a new library, a dairy mart (moved from Huron), a new Catholic Church, the Park View Senior Citizens Home, and a new airport came to town, while in 1971 the American Legion purchased an existing building and remodeled it into a new Legion Hall.¹¹⁷ These new additions to Arlington were accompanied by the loss of many of the town’s older buildings. The St. John’s Lutheran Church was destroyed by fire in December 1960, and later that decade the old wood Catholic church was demolished. Meanwhile the Co-op Creamery and Tracy Produce closed their doors and were later demolished.¹¹⁸ These demolitions perhaps foretold future decline. Arlington’s population dropped from 991 in 1980 to 906 people in 1990.¹¹⁹

In sum, The Arlington Masonic Temple is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, significant at the local level in the area of social history. It is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, significant at the local level for its architecture. It has changed very little since construction and retains enough overall integrity to be eligible for listing in the National Register.

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¹¹⁴ “Arlington: Town with Three Names.”

¹¹⁵ *Early Residents of Brookings County, South Dakota. Census Data for 1860-1870-1880*, iv.

¹¹⁶ “O.T. Nelson Prepared.”

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁹ Hall, *Kingsbury County*, 41.

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Name of Property

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: SD State Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): KB00000182

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Zone: 14 | Easting: 648563.7029 | Northing: 4913873.8537 |
| 2. Zone: 14 | Easting: 648553.3842 | Northing: 4913861.9474 |
| 3. Zone: 14 | Easting: 648515.2841 | Northing: 4913895.5496 |
| 4. Zone: 14 | Easting: 648526.1320 | Northing: 4913907.9850 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 11 and 12, Block 6, of Albert Keep's First Addition to the Town of Nordland.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the entire resource and the land historically associated with the resource.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Delia Hagen, Ph.D.
organization: WGM Group, Inc.
street & number: 1111 East Broadway
city or town: Missoula state: Montana zip code: 59801
e-mail: Dhagen@wmggroup.com
telephone: (406) 728-4611
date: May 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Arlington Masonic Temple
City or Vicinity: Arlington
County: Kingsbury County
State: South Dakota
Photographer: Delia Hagen
Date Photographed: September 2015

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SD_Kingsbury County_Arlington Masonic Temple_0001: View to North.



SD_Kingsbury County_Arlington Masonic Temple_0002: View to North.



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SD_Kingsbury County_Arlington Masonic Temple_0003: View to West.



SD_Kingsbury County_Arlington Masonic Temple_0004: View to South.



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SD_Kingsbury County_Arlington Masonic Temple_0005: View to East.



SD_Kingsbury County_Arlington Masonic Temple_0006: Façade detail, view to North West.



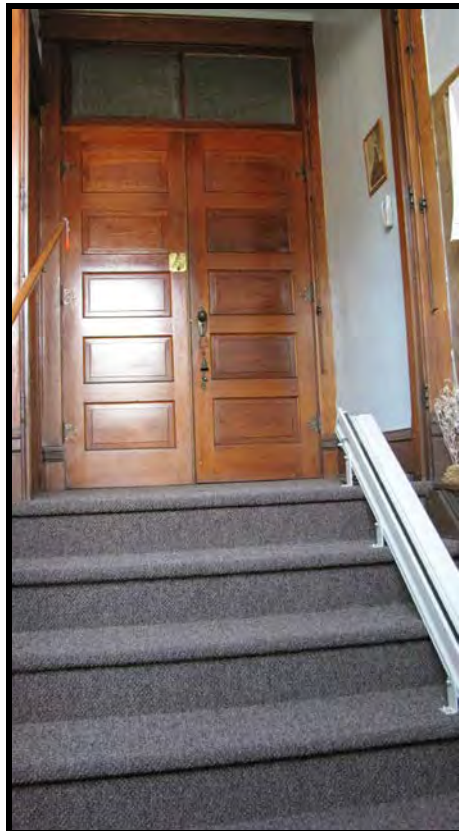
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Kingsbury County, SD
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SD_Kingsbury County_Arlington Masonic Temple_0007: Cornerstone detail, view to West.



SD_Kingsbury County_Arlington Masonic Temple_0008: Interior detail (main stairs)



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SD_Kingsbury County_Arlington Masonic Temple_0009: Interior detail (door to main hall hardware).



SD_Kingsbury County_Arlington Masonic Temple_0010: Interior detail (door to main hall hardware).



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SD_Kingsbury County_Arlington Masonic Temple_0011: Interior detail (facade window from upper viewing chamber).



SD_Kingsbury County_Arlington Masonic Temple_0012: Interior detail (upper viewing chamber).



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SD_Kingsbury County_Arlington Masonic Temple_0013: Interior detail (main hall looking at north window interior shutters).



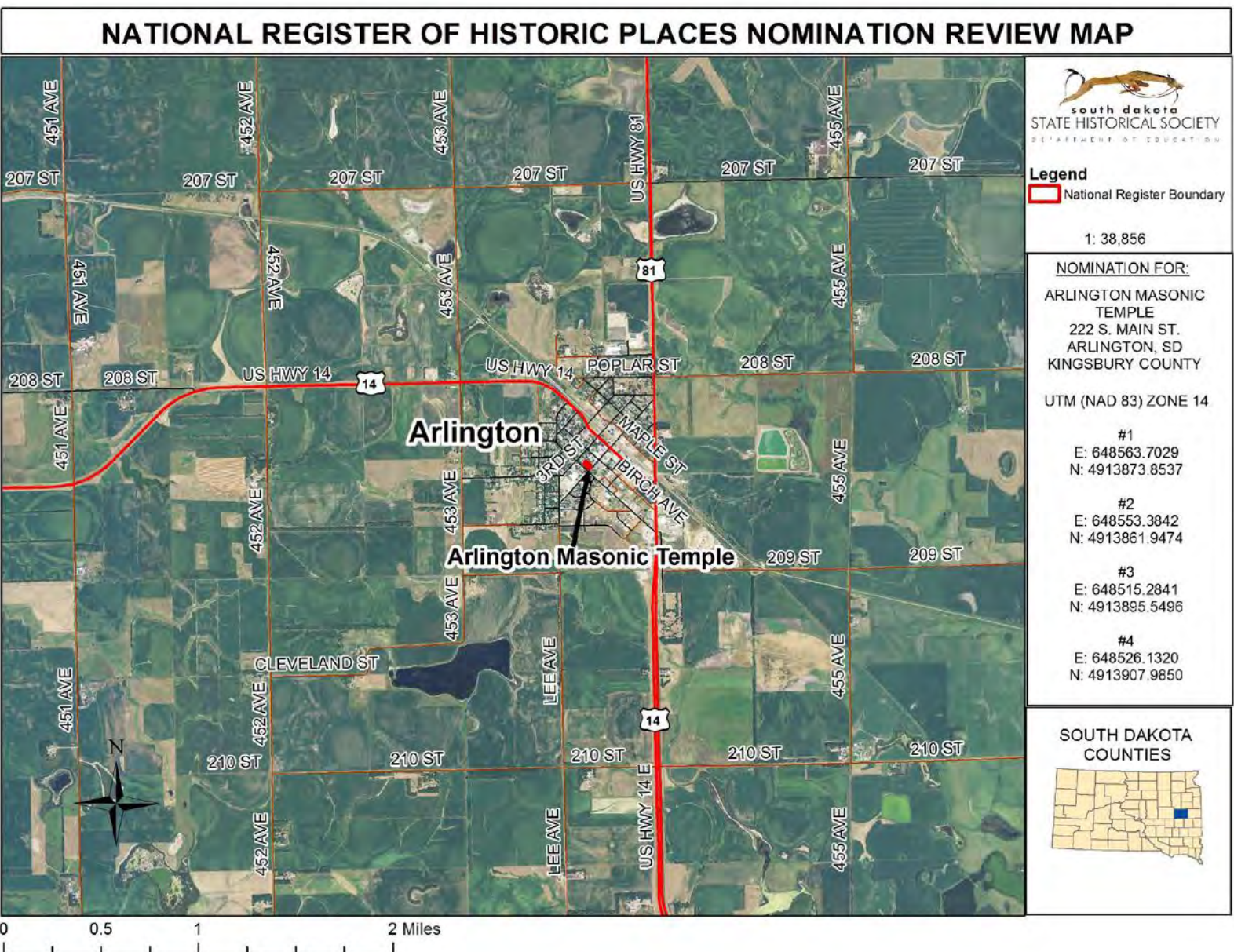
SD_Kingsbury County_Arlington Masonic Temple_0014: Interior detail (main hall Masonic display).



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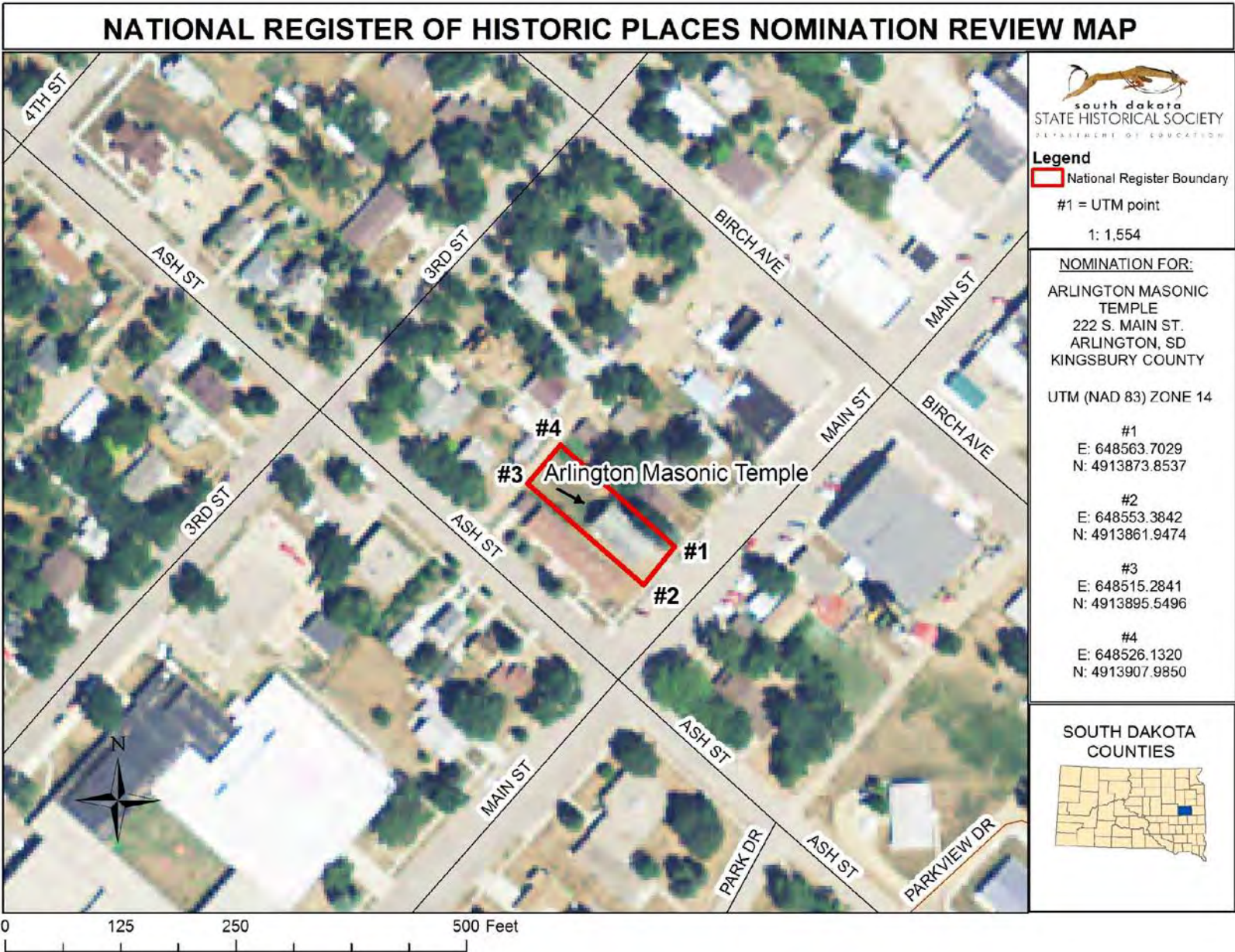
Arlington Masonic Temple map (Produced in ArcMap 10.3.1 by J.Brosz, 2 Dec. 2016)



Arlington Masonic Temple
 Name of Property

Kingsbury County, SD
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Arlington Masonic Temple map (close-up view) (Produced in ArcMap 10.3.1 by J.Brosz, 2 Dec. 2016)



Arlington Masonic Temple
Name of Property

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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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



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222



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222









RECTED

WEST

BANK

1800





- TO -

GARFIELD LODGE

No. 28 A.F. & A.M.

IN MEMORY OF

J. R. BRANN, W.M.

- 1940 -





Arlington

SUMMER
READY TO EAT CALIFORNIA TREE FRUIT

Coast

Handle with Care...
There are Eggs! Kerosene Oil! Nipples!
Gotta be there!

CELLWORKS
TOTAL WOOD SOLUTIONS





Sr. Warden

Sr. Deacons

Jr. Deacons

Clerk

Marshal

This is a miniature
Masonic
Lodge



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 1/13/2017 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 2/28/2017 Date of Weekly List: 3/9/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 2/27/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Roger Reed Discipline Historian

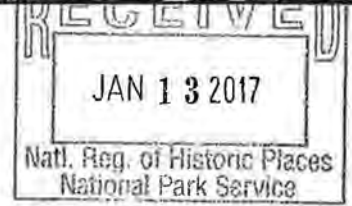
Telephone (202)354-2278 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



south dakota
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



January 11, 2017

Keeper of the National Register
 National Register of Historic Places
 National Park Service
 1201 "I" (Eye) Street NW
 8th Floor (MS 2280)
 Washington DC 20005

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copies of the following new nominations to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Arlington Masonic Temple, Arlington, Kingsbury County, South Dakota
- Dell Rapids Warming House, Dell Rapids, Minnehaha County, South Dakota

and two updated nominations:

- Bon Homme County Courthouse, Tyndall, Bon Homme County, South Dakota, NRIS #84000581 (additional documentation)
- Herschell-Spillman Steam Riding Gallery (Art B. Thomas Carousel), Prairie Village, Madison, Lake County, South Dakota, NRIS #16000825 (amended address)

If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please feel free to contact Jennifer Brosz at 605-773-2906 or jennifer.brosz@state.sd.us (Arlington), or Liz Almlie at 605-773-6056 or liz.almliie@state.sd.us (Dell Rapids, Tyndall, and Madison).

Sincerely,

Liz Almlie
 Historic Preservation Specialist