



1136

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Nomination 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 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. 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 Modale School and Masonic Hall
other names/site number ACMODE Lodge No. 544 A.F. & A.M.

2. Location

street & number 107 S. Main Street not for publication N/A
city or town Modale vicinity N/A
state Iowa code IA county Harrison code 085 zip code 51556

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Bruce G. Bennett DSHO 12/18/2013
Signature of certifying official Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
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 or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of Keeper <u>Patrick Andrews</u>	Date of Action <u>2/5/2014</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Modale School and Masonic Hall
Name of Property

Harrison County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School
SOCIAL/meeting hall
RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: front-gabled
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD/weatherboard
roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description

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

Modale School and Masonic Hall
Name of Property

Harrison County, Iowa
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1880-1963

Significant Dates

1880

1911

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary Location of Additional Data:

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

Name of repository:

Modale School and Masonic Hall
Name of Property

Harrison County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	<u>14</u>	<u>748933</u>	<u>4611588</u>	3	<u>14</u>	<u>748969</u>	<u>4611554</u>
2	<u>14</u>	<u>748968</u>	<u>4611588</u>	4	<u>14</u>	<u>748934</u>	<u>4611553</u>

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 Leah D. Rogers/Consultant
organization Tallgrass Historians L.C. date December 10, 2013
street & number 2460 S. Riverside Drive telephone 319-354-6722
city or town Iowa City state IA zip code 52246

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town and Country Arts
street & number 107 S. Main Street. P.O. Box 156 telephone 712-645-2531
city or town Modale state IA zip code 51556

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 **Page** 1 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

7. Narrative Description

The Modale School and Masonic Hall is located in the Town of Modale in the southwestern portion of Harrison County in western Iowa. The school/hall building is specifically located at 107 S. Main Street in Modale. The two story rectangular frame building faces east and is situated on the north lot of a two-lot parcel, specifically Lots 5 and 6 of Block 2 of the Original Town of Modale. The south lot is a grassy lawn and has a large wooden deck and gazebo added in recent years. A wooden handicapped-accessible ramp is between the deck and the south side of the building. This ramp provides access to the rear stage door and the side entry to the first floor theater. Originally, the south side theater door was a window that was converted into a doorway in 1911. The rear stage door, however, is a modern conversion of a window into a door. The building in its current configuration reflects the 1911 moving and remodeling of the 1880 school for the Masonic Hall. The remodeling included: a two-story addition to the rear of the building; removal of the projecting bell tower on the façade; enclosing the two doors on the façade and creating a new centered double-wide doorway covered by a Colonial Revival-style porch; enclosing and repositioning the two windows on the second floor façade; and adding a decorative sunburst and Masonic emblem gable screen to the front gable end. At least some of the siding would have been replaced if not the entire building resided with clapboard siding during the 1911 remodel. This would have been needed to cover up the enclosed and repositioned windows and doors on the façade as well as the removal of the bell tower. Comparing historic photographs of the original school building with the newly moved and remodeled building in 1911 suggests that the peaked lintel boards are original but many of the original 2/2 double-hung windows were replaced with 1/1 double-hung windows during that remodel. However, three windows on the first floor south side and four windows on the first floor north side of the building are the original 2/2 double-hung windows.

The original school building was devoid of architectural style and was a vernacular front-gabled building with a prominent, square two-story tower with low-pitched hipped roof. The tower projected out from the center of the gable-end façade and was flanked by single doors on the first floor and single windows on the second floor. When the building was remodeled by the Masons in 1911, the details they added to the façade reflected the Colonial Revival style then popular in the nation (McAlester and McAlester 1998:321). These details included the open front porch that featured a projecting closed-gabled pediment supported by half-height round posts set on rusticated concrete block piers and side extensions under a hipped roof also featuring the same posts and concrete block piers and poured concrete railing. The posts are hollow wooden fluted columns with simple banded details at the top and base. The projecting section of the porch shelters the set of concrete stairs leading up into the long section of the porch to the centered front entry doors. The other stylistic details added to the façade by the Masons included the large wooden sunburst and rays that fill the gable end and the wooden Masonic symbol as a gable screen at the roof peak. The closed-gable pediment of the front porch also features a sunburst, with the eave overhang of the porch roofline having wooden modillion blocks. The ridge of the porch roof is topped with a metal crest that features a finial detail just above the front entry.

In the 1920s-30s, the front porch was partially enclosed to house a ticket booth and projection room for the movie theater, which had been added to the interior of the hall. The enclosure on the front porch features a small ticket window on the north wall within the covered entryway next to the double front doors. The original fluted, round wooden porch posts are visible on the interior of the ticket booth enclosure. Both the ticket booth and the projection room enclosures also have small rectangular windows set on the east wall just below the frieze board. These windows are meant to provide light only and are fixed single panes of glass. The double front entry doors open out to the covered central

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 **Page** 2 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

section of the porch and have a single light rectangular fixed transom window above.

The door to the ticket booth from the interior also has a single-light transom but this one can be opened for ventilation. The interior door to the projection room is a vertical wooden board door covered with metal sheeting on the interior for fire protection. The interior of the projection room itself is coated with cement to provide additional fire protection. The projection room door originally had two cut-outs for the projectors out into the theater but these have since been covered over with wooden panels. Both the projection room door and the ticket booth door are set up into the wall and require stepping up in order to gain access to each room. However, the ticket booth door is a single step up, while the projection booth door would have required a step stool or small ladder to access.

The north side of the building features six windows across the second floor (four are in the main part of the building, while two are in the rear addition). The windows in the main part are each centered over the four windows on the second floor. However, on the first floor of the rear addition, there is only one window centered under the second floor rear window. The gap in the first floor window fenestration in the 1911 rear addition is original. There simply never was a window at this location. Additionally, the rear window on the first floor is smaller in height than the other windows. This window is located in the northwest corner at the back of the stage on the interior. The four windows on the main part of the first floor are the original 2/2 double-hung windows from the 1880 school building, while those on the second floor and the rear addition are all 1/1 double-hung windows from the 1911 remodeling.

The west or rear of the building is part of the two-story addition made to the 1880 school building as part of the 1911 remodeling by the Masons. The rear wall features two windows on the second floor, one of which has been paneled over on the interior and the other being an open 1/1 double-hung window. There are three small square 1/1 windows on the first floor of the west wall, which were added in the 1950s or 1960s. It is suspected that there were no windows here originally and that these were later added to provide additional light and ventilation to the rear of the stage area. A small rectangular attic window is set off-center in the gable peak. The attic window appears to be original to the addition's construction.

The south side of the building has the same window configuration across the second floor as does the north side, with the two rear addition windows covered over with paneling on the interior. The other windows in main part of the building are 1/1 double-hung windows from the 1911 remodeling of the building. The first floor of the south side features three 2/2 double-hung windows from the original 1880 school building, but the original fourth window was converted in 1911 into a doorway. This doorway was sheltered by a projecting front-gabled roof supported by wooden posts. However, by the late twentieth century, the porch had been removed and replaced with a metal overhang that was removed when the building was restored in recent years. In the process of restoration, a new front-gabled porch hood supported by square wooden posts was placed over this doorway. The new porch hood has a closed pediment similar to the front porch and features a sunburst to reflect the 1911 details on the front porch and façade. The door is a historic door from a church in the region installed recently and replaced a modern door. There is a two-light transom above the door that is also historic in age. The current stage door at the southwest corner of the south wall replaced a window at this location. The door is also a modern door and is sheltered by a smaller front-gabled porch hood that is cantilevered and features the same sunburst detail as the hood over the other south side door. This porch hood was added during the recent restoration of the building. Also added to the south side of the building is a wooden handicapped-accessible ramp

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 **Page** 3 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

with wooden railing. The ramp is linked to a large wooden deck that extends out to the south and features an octagonal gazebo at the southwest corner. The ramp was built before the deck, which was added c. 2008.

The parcel surrounding the building is grass-covered, with recent plantings of cedar and evergreen bushes and small trees. A wooden signboard with wood-shingled awning is situated just to the south of the main entry and carries a sign reading "Grand Lodge Arts Center." A concrete sidewalk lines the Main Street frontage with a graveled parking area between the sidewalk and the paved street. There is no curb and gutter along this street.

The roof of both the main building and the various porches are covered with newer asphalt shingles. Historically, two brick chimneys pierced the roofline along the south slope and at the rear of the building; however, both chimneys have been removed above the roofline.

The building was last painted seven to eight years ago and is in need of repainting. The color scheme used in the most recent painting included: a light yellow or beige color for the body of the building; white for the window and door surrounds and the corner and frieze boards; dark blue for some of the crown molding and part of the Masonic gable screen; light blue for the peaked lintel molding on the windows and for the front gable end sunburst rays; dark red for the sunburst; and yellow for the half sun details in the gable ends. Dark red was also used to highlight the rounded bands at the top and base of the porch columns and the interior of the front door and the molding on the front and side doors, which also feature a light blue and white color scheme on the wooden panels. A darker yellow was then used to highlight the tops of the porch piers and the inset panels of the concrete porch railing, a detail that was repeated on the closed wooden railing around the south deck. All of the windows are now covered with aluminum storm windows. Prior to the most recent painting, the building had been painted all white but did have the same dark yellow paint on the front porch that was used in the circa 2004 painting. The Masonic symbol in the front gable screen was painted gold by at least 2002 and was repainted in gold.

Photographs of the building in 2002 show a deteriorated structure in need of repainting and repair. Most of the windows had been boarded over with plywood panels, with a section of the exterior siding replaced from the ground up to the base of the windows on the south wall with vertical board siding that appeared to be water damaged. This replacement may have resulted from past flooding in this area. During the recent restoration, this paneling was removed and replaced with clapboard siding matching the original boards above. There was an area of the sunburst and just below this detail on the front façade where the siding had deteriorated and was restored with similar wooden details and siding.

The interior of the first floor of the building consists of a main hall that occupies the majority of the floor plan. A raised stage occupies the rear one-third of the plan. The raised stage section is that part of the building added in 1911 by the Masons. The stage can be reached by two sets of stairs, one that directly enters the open stage and one that enters the back of the stage area from the north side. The stage itself is defined by a rectangular set wall that currently is painted and wallpapered to look like the interior of a house. The stage opening is covered by a painted canvas that is a reproduction of the original canvas stage screen, which is housed in the Harrison County Historical Museum in Missouri Valley. There is a stage door that provides access to the rear of the stage from the exterior, which is a modern addition as noted above. A storage closet is underneath the stairs to the second floor and is accessed near the stage door in the southwest corner of the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 **Page** 4 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

The main hall area of the first floor is open, with only three metal pole supports down the center of the hall. These supports were added after the building was moved to this location and during the 1911 remodel when classroom wall dividers from the school were likely removed by the Masons. A newspaper article on the "New Masonic Hall at Modale" dating from August 18, 1911, noted that the building was being remodeled and had formerly been the school. The article went on to state that an addition had been made to the rear of the building that included a stage to be "used for public entertainments and gatherings of various nature;" "a handsome porch of wood and cemented added in front, and the front further adorned by the Masonic emblem before a sunburst" (*The Little Sioux Hustler*, August 18, 1911). The second floor was to be used exclusively for lodge purposes (ibid.).

It appears that the intention of the first floor remodeling and the rear addition was to make the first floor space into a community event space and a space that could generate income for the Masons to help in the upkeep of the building. It became a movie theater by the 1920s-30s but was also used for theatrical productions and school events. A 1919 photograph shows a senior class group dressed in costume for a play standing outside of this building suggesting that the school was using the first floor hall for class plays. The addition of a ticket booth in the 1920s-30s enclosure of the front porch of the building indicates that at least some of the events were meant to be money makers.

The hall has vertical board wainscoting on the three walls and along the base of the raised stage. This wainscoting is capped with molding and extends a few inches above the base of the windows on the north and south walls. Some egg-and-dart molding was added at the ceiling around the hall but this was added during the recent restoration. The hardwood floors consist of boards that are 3-1/4 inches wide, the width of all the hardwood floors on the first and second floors and in the 1911 rear addition, suggesting that these floors were all added during that remodeling project. However, on the second floor of the original school building, there are remnants on the hardwood flooring underneath carpeting of the painted basketball court from the use of that room as the school gymnasium prior to the building's move to this location. The ceiling height of the main floor hall is 10 feet 10-1/2 inches. Two rows of electric chandeliers light the theater with electric wall sconces on the north and south walls giving additional light. These fixtures are modern and were added during the recent restoration of the building.

In the 1940s-50s, the Masons added a restroom to the southwest corner of the main hall just off the staircase entry vestibule on the south wall of the building. This restroom was completely removed during the recent restoration of the building; however, the holes cut into the floor for the plumbing can still be seen in the flooring. This restroom may have been associated with the use of the first floor for classrooms when the Modale School burned down in the summer of 1957. During this time, this building was used for classrooms, while the nearby Methodist Church was used as the school kitchen and lunchroom. The school's gymnasium building did not burn and continued to be used as the high school's gymnasium during this period. A new school building was completed nearly a year after the fire. Modern additions to the first floor have included the above-noted stage door in the southwest corner of the building, which involved the alteration of a window into a door opening, and the addition of two wall partitions to either side of the front entryway that do not reach to the ceiling. These wall partitions house a modern restroom on the south side and a storage area on the north side. The north-side storage room opening is covered by a cloth curtain that can be pulled back manually for access. The restroom has a wooden door and features woodwork salvaged from a historic house in Mondamin. The plumbing fixtures are all modern. The six rows of theater seating currently in the building were not original to this hall. These seats are a mixture of folding wooden seats and folding upholstered seats. Some of the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 **Page** 5 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

seating came from the historic Murray Hall in nearby Little Sioux and some from a theater in Pisgah, Iowa. The folding chairs are bolted into the floor. Some modern removable seating is also used depending on the size of the crowd.

The second floor of the hall is reached by an interior staircase along the south wall of the building. The base of this staircase lands within an enclosed vestibule that is connected to the exterior by the south side door. There are two interior doors into this vestibule, one that opens to the east and one to the north. The east door would have provided access to the restroom that has since been removed and now simply opens into the theater seating area. An electric chair lift has been added along the south side of the stairs to provide handicapped access to the second floor. At the top of the stairs is a railing with turned wooden balusters and a wooden newel post.

The stairs enter an office/kitchen/utility area of the second floor hall, with some items from the Masons use of the building still present including a roll-top desk, some cabinets, and their metal safe painted with the lodge name "ACMODE LODGE No. 544.A.F. & A.M." The safe is a "Victor Patent" safe from the Victor Safe and Lock Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio.¹ The office occupies most of the rear of the second floor addition but does have two small rooms off the north side that were used for a kitchen (now a modern kitchen complete with a pass-through cut through the wall in recent years) and a storage or cloak room (now housing a furnace and water heater). The walls are covered with wooden paneling added in the mid- to late twentieth century by the Masons. In the process of paneling, some of the upper floor windows were filled with batt insulation and covered on the interior with paneling as an energy saving measure. The windows were left intact and some were uncovered during the recent restoration, while others remain covered.

The main hall on the second floor is reached through the main entry doors of the office and near the stairway. There is one door that exits from the office into a narrow hallway, or anteroom, that now has a modern bathroom off to the north side of the door. Immediately opposite the door is a second door that enters directly into the hallway. This second door features the circular peephole with swinging cover that was used by the door keeper to insure that only members of the lodge gained entry to the main hall. Once in the hall, the room is completely open with no interior support posts. This room was outfitted by the Masons for their lodge hall and still features a number of objects and pieces of furniture original to the lodge. A member of this lodge assisted in the proper placement of these pieces so that the current display is as close to the original configuration as possible. These pieces include: two movable wooden altars or podiums and two smaller wooden pillars that feature Masonic symbols and are placed at specific locations around the room; a wooden desk placed near the main podium; an upright piano; and various objects and staffs featuring Masonic symbols and iconography placed at specific locations around the room. In addition, are a number of the ceremonial aprons, banners, jewels, and certificates from the lodge as well as the lodge's Bible and a movable electric light stand that has light bulbs with Masonic symbol-shaped filaments.

The second floor has hardwood floors that are 3-1/4 inches wide throughout. The main hall area also has carpeting that covers the center of the floor and covers over the painted basketball court from the school use of this building. Also

¹ This particular safe would date from after 1904 based on a decal on the door that notes that the company won a grand prize award for their display at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis (a.k.a. the 1904 World's Fair). Reportedly, the company used this decal for the next 15 to 20 years; therefore, this safe probably dates from between 1904 and the early 1920s (Information obtained from <http://thecoinologist.com/2011/04/19/safe-find-antique-victor-lock-safe-co/>, April 11, 2013).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 **Page** 6 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

carpeted are three wooden stages that are placed at the east, west, and south walls. The east stage is the main stage and features three low rising steps. The west stage has two low rising steps, while the south stage is a single step and small in size. One of the two larger altars is on the east stage and is draped with a banner that reads “Strength,” while the second altar is placed in the center of the room and draped with a banner that reads “Beauty.” A third banner reading “Wisdom” is draped over the desk that sits on the south side of the east stage. A smaller podium sits on the edge of the small stage along the south wall and holds a wooden column. Two wooden shafts topped with metal symbols set into metal three-footed bases are freestanding and flank the south stage. An identical small podium with wooden column sits on the top edge of the west stage, which is also flanked by two pillars holding blue globes and featuring Masonic symbols on the bases. Two wooden pillars topped with solid wooden globes flank the east stage and are also freestanding. Two freestanding flag poles and another freestanding wooden shaft topped with a metal Masonic symbol and sitting in a metal three-footed stand flank the east stage and sit on the steps down from the stage. A portrait of George Washington in his Masonic garb with a “G” above is hung on the east wall and centered above the stage.

Masonic symbols represented by these items include: the square and compass (often paired and with a centered “G” for God and Geometry), the level, the plumb, the sword, and the all seeing eye (or the eye of God). The pillars represent the pillars that flanked King Solomon’s Temple as well as the pillars of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty. The number three is symbolic, such as the three stages and the three steps. Three refers to the three degrees of Masonry, the three sides of the triangle, the three greater and lesser lights, and ultimately the “triune nature” of man represented by “the body, soul, and spirit” (Kumar 2004).

Additional symbolism is found in the number four, such as the four sides of the lodge that refer to “sense-impression (North), reason (West), intellectual ideation (South), and spiritual intuition (East)” and represent the “four possible ways of knowledge” (Wilmhurst 1980:93). This is further illustrated by the placement of the various stages and podiums within the lodge, such as “the place of the Master and Past-Masters being always in the East” (ibid.:93). The lodge is further “supported by three grand pillars, Wisdom, Strength and Beauty,” which refer not to the physical lodge building but rather to the “triplicity of properties resident in the individual soul;” however, this “triplicity” is certainly referenced in the physical symbols within the lodge and their physical placement around the hall (ibid.:95).

The number seven is also meaningful in Masonry, with the officers of the lodge numbering seven—three principals, three subordinates, and one minor officer who serves as the “connecting link with the outside world” (Wilmhurst 1980:101).

Seven is universally the number of completeness[.] The time-periods of creation were seven. The spectrum of light consists of seven colours; the musical scale of seven notes; our division of time is into weeks of seven days; our physiological changes run in cycles of seven years. Man himself is a seven-fold organism in correspondence with all these and the normal years of his life are seven multiplied by ten (Wilmhurst 1980:101).

The placement of items around the lodge hall, and the symbols used, include the imagery that “midway between the Master-light from the East and the ‘Moon’ in the West is placed the Junior Warden in the South, symbolizing the third greater light, the ‘Sun’” (Wilmhurst 1980:103). In other words, everything in the physical lodge hall and its placement

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 **Page** 7 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

is fraught with meaning and purpose for the conduct of ceremonies and the personal journey of each lodge member.² Some items in the lodge hall are recent donations, such as the freestanding bookcases and the two electric signs from the Order of the Eastern Star that relate to Harrison County Masonic history.

The ceiling of the hall is 9 feet 10-1/2 inches tall. The ceiling itself is new plasterboard installed during the recent building restoration. The ceiling height in the rear office section of the second floor is 11 feet 3/4 inches. The ceiling in the rear section is an older plastered finish.

Seven Aspects of Integrity

- **Location** - The Modale School and Masonic Hall has been moved twice in its history but both times within the boundaries of the Town of Modale and both times within the period of significance for this property. The original site was at the north end of Main Street at the northeast corner of Palmer and Main streets. By 1902, the school building had been moved to a location southwest of the intersection of Haley and Main streets. In 1911, when the town school board decided to build a new brick school on the same parcel, the frame school was moved to its current site at 107 S. Main Street on the west side of the street just north of the intersection with Haley Street. This location is very close to the previous location, and the building is oriented to the street at it was in that location (i.e., facing east). It appears that on the original 1880 site, the building faced south. While not at its original site and having been moved twice to get to its current location, the building is considered to meet Criteria Consideration B because it is significant for both its architectural and historical importance as a late nineteenth century town school and an early twentieth century Masonic lodge hall and community theater in small town Iowa. The building has remained along Main Street in the Town of Modale throughout its history. The moving of this building was not unusual for the time, with the town’s City Hall also moved at least once during this same period. Had the subject building not been moved the last time, it would likely not have survived because it was moved so that it could be adapted for another purpose rather than torn down. Therefore, while the integrity of location has been impacted by the moves, ultimately the moves preserved the building into the present day. Furthermore, this was a town school moved within its town of origin and it continued to have a school association even in its final location and use as the Masonic Hall. The first floor hall served as theater for class plays and, in 1957 when the brick school was destroyed by fire, this building functioned again as the school house until a new school was built.
- **Design** - The building still exhibits the original form and design of a vernacular two story, front-gabled frame school building. The extant 2/2 double-hung windows are also from the original school building. The original façade of the school building was altered when the building was remodeled in 1911 by the Masons. In the process, the centered projecting tower was removed, although it may have been removed prior to the move to this site. The original front doors and windows flanking the tower were enclosed and a set of new double doors placed at the center of the façade, with two new single windows set closer together above the doorway. The clapboard siding was either repaired or replaced on the façade during the remodel to cover over the enclosures of the original doors and windows. Colonial Revival stylistic elements were added during the 1911 remodeling of the building by the

² The complexity of the symbolism is only briefly summarized herein because this topic literally fills books on the subject.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 **Page** 8 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

Masons. These elements are significant and largely intact and include the front entry porch and the gable-end decorative details, such as the sunburst. While two sides of the front porch were enclosed in the 1920s-30s when the interior became a movie theater, the enclosure for the ticket booth left the original columns, railing, and beaded board ceiling intact and simply covered by clapboard siding on the exterior. The enclosure of the projection room side did involve the application of cement to the walls and ceiling on the interior as a fire-proofing measure. However, the 1920s-30s enclosure elements remain intact and contribute to the understanding of the building's history. As a whole, the building reflects the historic functions of this building including the open halls on both the first and second floor that functioned for school uses and as the Masonic Hall and the components of the theater use of the first floor including the stage, ticket booth, and projection room. There has been some impact to the design from the modern addition of the handicapped ramp, wooden deck, and gazebo off the south side of the building; however, only the ramp is directly attached to the lower side of the building. Furthermore, these structures do not impede the main public view of the building.

- **Setting** - This property generally retains only fair integrity of setting because its current location is the third site of this building. The first and second locations were during the period when the building was the Modale School. When the old school building was moved to the current site, it became the Masonic Hall and community theater but continued to be used for some school activities and even functioned again as the school in 1957. The building does face the same direction and street that the building did in its second location as the school and is not far from that second location. The open lot to the south side of the building in its current location has been impacted to some degree by the addition of the handicapped ramp, deck, and gazebo in recent years. This lot was shown as vacant on the 1930s fire insurance map of Modale (Iowa Insurance Service Bureau 1933-38).³
- **Materials** - The building retains good integrity of materials as represented by the retention of historic-age clapboard siding (with some repairs in recent years); the retention of seven of the original 2/2 windows and all of the 1/1 windows added during the 1911 remodeling, although several windows in the rear addition (also part of the 1911 remodeling) were later covered over with insulation and wooden paneling on the interior; and the retention of the front façade decorative details added in 1911 including the front entry porch and the gable screen and sunburst details. Interior materials that remain intact include: hardwood floors of historic age throughout the building; the painted basketball floor from the school use of the second floor hall as a gymnasium; the 1920s-30s ticket booth and projection room; and the raised stage on the first floor and the Masonic office, vestibule, and main lodge hall on the second floor. Adding to the integrity of the Masonic use of the hall is the retention of much of the furniture and symbolic items left in the building when the lodge dissolved and transferred the hall to the current owners—Town and Country Arts.

³ On the 1898 and 1905 fire insurance maps of Modale, there was a small dwelling in the northeast corner of the south lot (Lot 6), while the lot to the north (Lot 5) was vacant (Bennett 1898, 1905). The school building was moved to Lot 5 in 1911.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 **Page** 9 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

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- **Workmanship** - The building retains good integrity of workmanship as evidenced in the original physical structure of the frame school building and the intact elements from the remodeling by the Masons in the early twentieth century for use of the building as a theater, movie theater, and lodge hall.
 - **Feeling** - This building still presents a good sense of feeling of both a late nineteenth century school building and an early twentieth century Masonic hall and public theater.
 - **Association** - This building was the town school built in 1880 in Modale and is still recognizable for that association. It further retains good integrity of association as the early to mid-twentieth century Masonic Hall and public theater in the town of Modale.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 **Page** 10 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Modale School and Masonic Hall, located in the town of Modale in Harrison County, Iowa, is locally significant under Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, the building is significant for its association with the development of Modale’s public school system. Built in 1880, the school functioned as part of the Taylor Township sub-district as school No. 3. The local history of the Modale School is typical of thousands of other sub-district schools across the state, and as such represents the history of early Iowans’ commitment to providing free education for all. The building is also significant under Criterion A for its association with the Masonic lodge and its reflection of the importance of this fraternal society to the social history of Modale and Harrison County. The Masons acquired the building in 1911 when the school board decided to build a new brick school. The building was remodeled for use as their lodge hall on the second floor, with a stage and, later a movie theater, added on the first floor. Even after the Masons acquired the building, it continued to be used for school purposes during the period when the new school was being built (i.e., spring 1911) and then again when that school burned down and had to be rebuilt (1957). The building’s public hall was also used for school plays and other activities. The addition of first a public theater and then a movie theater to the first floor hall in the early twentieth century is also significant for its association with the evolution of recreation and culture in small town Iowa.

The Modale School and Masonic Hall is further significant under Criterion C because it represents a comparatively rare survival of a wooden-frame 1880 school building in the county and the State of Iowa and for its reflection of the early twentieth century Colonial Revival style of architecture added in 1911 during the remodeling of the building by the Masons. Elements of both the original 1880 school building and the 1911 remodel are still intact and impart the full history of this building. The building was moved twice in its history, with its original location at the north end of Main Street, its second site at the south end of Main Street, and its third and current site just north of the second location on the west side of Main Street near its south end. This last move was executed in 1911 when the Masons acquired the building from the school board to make way for the new brick school at the second site. In doing so, the building was saved from certain demolition. Moving buildings in Modale was not uncommon in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with this building always moved to locations within the town limits and along the length of Main Street. While its original orientation faced south, it faced east at both the second and third sites. Furthermore, in each of its moves, the building continued to function as a school or have an association with the school. As a result, the building is considered to meet Criteria Consideration B because of its historical and architectural significance.

The period of significance for this building is from 1880 to 1963, which represents the period in which this building was first built (1880), used as a public school (1880-1911 and again in 1957), moved to its current site (1911), its remodeling for use as the Masonic lodge hall (1911), and its subsequent remodeling on the first floor for a movie theater (1920s-30s). The building continued to be used by the ACMODE Lodge No. 544 A.F. & A.M. until 2004 when the lodge dissolved and the membership merged with the Missouri Valley Masonic lodge. However, the end date of 1963 is used for the nomination because it represents the fifty year closing date for consideration of National Register eligibility. Significant dates are considered to be 1880 when the school building was constructed and 1911 when the school building was moved to its current site and remodeled for the Masonic hall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 **Page** 11 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

Historical Significance of the Modale School and Masonic Hall

Town Schools in Iowa

Education was considered a priority by most early settlers of Iowa after the basic needs of settlement had been met. The first school conducted in the future state of Iowa was held in 1830 in Lee County. The first school house built for that purpose was a log building constructed by lead miners in 1833 near Dubuque. "By the time the Iowa Territory was organized in 1838, there were already between 40 and 50 established schools" (Deiber and Beedle 2002:3). As towns were established, schools were among their first institutions evolving from classes held in private homes or other buildings to the construction of dedicated public school buildings.

In 1858, an education bill was passed by the Iowa legislature that designated the civil township as the official school district.

Towns with more than 1,000 residents could, if they desired, become independent districts operating separately from the township. County superintendents were elected to supervise both the township and independent schools (Deiber and Beedle 2002:3).

The 1858 law was refined in 1872 when sub-districts were allowed by law to become independent school districts. In the process, the control of country schools was transferred from the township to rural neighborhoods. A school could remain in an independent sub-district under the control of its own board of trustees as long as the school had at least ten students (Deiber and Beedle 2002:3).

The laws governing independent districts within towns specifically stated that population estimates defining the potential market for schools could include only the corporate limits or original plat of a town or village. Although some very small towns attempted to include the surrounding rural community in order to meet enrollment size requirements, town school boards did not include rural residents (ibid.:3-4).

There were advantages for small towns to become independent districts including being able to establish as many schools as the local board deemed necessary. This could include graded elementary and high schools. They could also "develop their own curricula and hire their own teachers" (Deiber and Beedle 2002:4). Towns with independent school districts also "had access to more liberal taxing and bonding limits with which to build and maintain schools" than their rural counterparts (ibid.).

By 1881, Iowa towns could boast of 451 independent graded schools in 382 towns and cities. Town schools were further boosted in 1888 when the Iowa General Assembly "lowered the minimum number of inhabitants necessary to constitute an independent district in a town to 200, and in 1897, to 100" (Deiber and Beedle 2002:4). Within a few years, the total number of graded schools rose to 624 in Iowa towns that had populations under 3,000 (ibid.). "In the cities, towns, and villages, graded elementary and high schools were the norm" (ibid.).

Rural schools remained largely ungraded one-room schoolhouses. In the early 1900s, the Iowa legislature began to change that situation, a move that eventually resulted in the formation of consolidated schools located in the towns and

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 **Page** 12 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

cities of the state. In 1913, the State legislature passed a law that provided funding for consolidated schools.

Districts could receive aid for schools if they met grounds and building requirements, had acceptable public transportation for students, hired certified teachers, maintained an agriculture experiment plot, and owned the proper equipment to teach agriculture, home economics and manual training. Schools received money for equipment and instruction according to the number of rooms in the buildings—a two-room school received \$250 for equipment and \$200 for instruction, three-roomed schools brought in \$350 for equipment and \$500 for instruction, and four rooms got the school board \$500 for equipment and \$750 for instruction (Deiber and Beedle 2002:4).

Small towns continued to maintain independent graded schools “well into the mid- to late-20th century, when, ironically enough, a second round of school consolidation moved many schools back out into the rural countryside” (ibid.:4-5).

While most small towns in Iowa had graded schools, “the high school was a harder sell” (Deiber and Beedle 2002:5).

In 1901, there were 624 towns in Iowa with less than 1,500 population that had a graded school. Of these towns, only 48 (8 percent) also had a high school; by 1904, the number had increased only slightly to 66 schools (11 percent)....However, by 1910, there was a dramatic increase in the number of town high schools—554 in 795 towns—nearly seventy percent of the towns with a graded school now had a high school (ibid.:5).

The reasons for this dramatic increase included: the 1907 compulsory education law that required school attendance to age 14; changing perceptions of a high school from a college preparatory institution to a more equal opportunity to prepare for a place in society and not just in higher education; and the introduction of, and funding for, agricultural instruction in high school curricula (Deiber and Beedle 2002:6). High schools were still the stepping stone to a college education; a fact that was bolstered in the early 1900s by the creation by the state colleges of a system of accreditation for high schools based on the curriculum taught at each school. There was an increasing call for a standardized curriculum and criteria for teacher qualification in order to insure equal access for all to a high school education in Iowa. “Eventually, teacher accreditation standards and general curricula were adopted at the state level” (ibid.:7).

Between 1910 and 1920, the number of consolidated school districts in Iowa grew from 10 to 246, with all but eighteen counties having consolidated districts by 1920. The number grew to 412 by the early 1930s (Deiber and Beedle 2002:10). As school consolidation began, towns and cities found themselves in need of larger buildings to handle the expanding student population. Many older schools, even dedicated high school buildings, constructed in the late nineteenth century were inadequate for this purpose. Older schools often failed to meet new standards for school construction, with the design of schools increasingly meant to enhance the students’ educational experience by providing adequate lighting and ventilation. In small towns, school buildings often served multiple purposes with combined-use rooms such as an auditorium that also functioned as a gymnasium but could also double as a cafeteria, study hall, library, or classrooms as needed (ibid.).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 **Page** 13 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

The Town of Modale and the Modale School

The town of Modale was so-named by accident. The original name submitted for the town was to be named "Missouri Dale" after the post office at this same location. However, the United States Post Office abbreviated the name to "Mo.Dale" and the abbreviated name stuck becoming simply "Modale" (Centennial Committee 1974:8). This designation was made when the town was platted in 1874 along the Sioux City and Pacific rail line.⁴ The railroad began as the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad, which was built through this area in 1868. Originally, there was no regular station planned at this location; however, as population increased and a town was platted, Modale became a regular station stop along the railroad. In later years, this rail line became part of the Chicago & North Western rail system (Centennial Committee 1974:16; Western Publishing 1882:298).

Modale was incorporated in 1881 and within a few years the town had a population around 200 and could boast of two general merchandise stores, one of which housed the post office; a dry goods and drugstore; a grocery; a hardware store; two real estate businesses; two hotels; a grain and lumber dealer; a billiard parlor; and a blacksmith and wheelwright. There was also an attorney practicing in the fledgling town. By the early 1900s, the town had nearly 30 businesses and services reflecting the town's function as a railroad shipping point and an agricultural market and service center for the rural environs (Centennial Committee 1974:16; Western Publishing 1882:298). The town's "pocket directory" of 1927 noted that Modale was "surrounded by good farming land where an abundance of grain is produced and a large number of hogs and cattle are shipped each year" (Centennial Committee 1974:17). The town's businesses certainly catered to this agri-business. Even in 1882, the town's agricultural connections were noted as follows:

The business of Modale, though not varied, is large in proportion to its population, and is constantly improving. The exports consist principally of corn, hogs, cattle and wood. The latter, regarding which no exact figures could be obtained is shipped across the river into Nebraska. Modale has a large corn-cribbing capacity—at least 100,000 bushels, but double that amount of this cereal was shipped during 1881. Besides, a large quantity was purchased for home consumption. The shipments of cattle and hogs amounted to several hundred car loads of each, but as the cars in which the animals were shipped were sometimes partially filled at towns above before reaching Modale, it is not possible to give an exact number (Western Publishing 1882:299).

The early commercial and public buildings in Modale were primarily of frame construction and included one and two story buildings, many with the "false front" or "boom town" type of raised parapet on the façade. This type of false front imparted a grander scale to the front of the buildings and masked the lower gabled roofs behind and thus the actual size of the building itself. Simple bracketed wood cornices topped most of the store buildings. The Modale Savings Bank was among the few masonry buildings on Main Street and shows a modest expression of the Classical Revival style of architecture (Centennial Committee 1974:16-17).

In the early school history of this area, there were four sub-districts consisting of the Town of Modale and Taylor, Clay

⁴ Prior to that time there had been two other plats in the area, one called "Melrose," which was nothing more than a "paper town" having seen no development, and the other called "Martinsville" laid off in the early 1870s by early settler Benjamin Martin. The Martinsville, or according to the Harrison County Recorder's office "Martinsdale," plat subsequently became "Modale" (Western Publishing 1882:298).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 **Page** 14 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

and Cincinnati townships. The schools in these sub-districts included village/town schools and rural township schools. The very first school was built in the late 1850s and was known as Melrose School (Section 2 of Taylor Township). By the early 1890s, "there were 4 school houses outside of village schools" (Centennial Committee 1974:21). The very first school in Modale was a small frame building, which is non-extant. In 1880, it was replaced with a two story frame school "erected on land donated by Benjamin Martin" at a cost of \$1,600. "This was not an independent school but was sub-district No. 3, Taylor township" (ibid.). In 1882, this school was described as "the third one erected by the Sub-District" and as "a two-story frame structure, 30x50 feet, and has two rooms, each of which constitutes a department" (Western Publishing 1882:300).

The 1880 school was built at the northeast corner of Palmer and Main streets (Allen 1884). When the Ross Addition was made to the south side of town, the school was moved near that location, specifically southwest of the intersection of Haley and Main streets on land that had been owned by J. Ross. It was shown at this location on the 1902 plat map (Ogle 1902). According to the Harrison County Recorder's Office, "Ross' Addition to Martinsdale" was filed on November 13, 1894. Therefore, it is suspected that the second move of the school building occurred around that time, perhaps in time for the 1895 school year.

In 1911, when the town school board decided to build a new brick school on the same parcel, the old frame school was moved again, this time to a new location "two doors north and became the Masonic Temple" (Centennial Committee 1974:11).⁵ This final location is the current site at 107 S. Main Street on the west side of the street just north of the intersection with Haley Street. Moving buildings was not unusual for the time, and in Modale, even the old City Hall was moved rather than torn down and replaced (ibid.).

The building appears to have continued to be used as the school following the move and while the new school was being built. By summer 1911, the new brick school was completed and was certainly ready for classes in the fall, if not the spring of that year. During the summer, the Masons were able to take full control of the old school building and remodel it for their lodge hall. In August 1911, the *Little Sioux Hustler* ran a photograph of the "New Masonic Hall at Modale" along with an article detailing the remodeling project.

The Masonic Fraternity of Modale will shortly occupy a building of their own, an illustration of which appears in this issue of the *Hustler*, and, of which the local lodge feel very proud. The building, while not altogether new, has been so remodeled as to be practically new. It was formerly the school building, until the present brick was erected.

The local lodge through the direction of three trustees, Messers Jno. Young, E. A. Drake, and C. A. Fountain purchased the property, and the credit for the re-modeling, arrangement and decoration is largely due to the untiring efforts of Mr. John Young, who has given the matter much time and personal labor.

⁵ The new brick school was completed in 1911 and was essentially a consolidated school; however, it was not until 1917 that the Modale Consolidated School District was officially established and a \$25,000 addition was made to the 1911 brick school (Centennial Committee 1974:21; *The Little Sioux Hustler*, August 18, 1911). That school is no longer standing having burned down in 1957. Only the gymnasium addition is extant and now houses a commercial business.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 15 Property name Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

An addition was built on the rear making the building 30 by 62 feet, a handsome porch of wood and cement added in front, and the front further adorned by the Masonic emblem before a sunburst. The main floor, 30 by 46 feet, with a stage 30 by 16 will be used for public entertainments and gatherings of various natures, and will be seated with about two hundred movable chairs.

The upper floor will be used exclusively for lodge purposes, the main room being 30 by 46, with an entry, ante and cloak room arranged for the convenience of both Acmode Lodge No. 544, A. F. & A. M., and Acme Chapter 280, O. E. S.

It is expected that work will be completed this week and that the next regular meetings of these lodges will be held therein (*Little Sioux Hustler*, August 18, 1911).

The photograph accompanying the article showed the lodge hall remodeling complete on the exterior with the rear addition, the front porch, and the façade decorative details, including the Masonic emblem gable screen, in place (*ibid.*).⁶ In September 1911, the regional newspapers all carried the same notice reporting that the Modale Masons had “erected” a new “Masonic Temple” and that it was “nearly completed” and would be “one of the finest in this part of the state” (e.g., *Akron Register*, September 7, 1911; *Rolfe Reveille*, September 7, 1911).

There is a photograph of the new brick school building that shows the old school building in the background (at its current location) but not yet remodeled. In that photograph, the old school building has no rear addition and still has its front windows and doors in their original location. While the 1974 Modale centennial book (Centennial Committee 1974:21) stated that “the new brick two-story school house” was built in 1914, it was clearly built in 1911 based on the above newspaper articles which discuss the Masonic lodge remodeling the old building and show a photograph of that building in its remodeled state, and the fact that there is a photograph of the completed brick school with the old school building in the background and not yet remodeled. Therefore, it is concluded that the new brick school was complete enough by the summer of 1911 for the Masons to then remodel the old school building into their lodge hall. The new school would then have been ready to receive students by the fall term of 1911. In 1917, the brick school was greatly enlarged with a “\$25,000 addition” when it became the Modale Consolidated School District. A photograph of the 1917 school appears to show that the 1917 construction involved additions to the front and rear of the 1911 brick building, with only the sides of the 1911 building still visible on the exterior. It was this enlarged 1911-17 school building that burned to the ground in 1957 and is the school building older Modale residents still remember.

Freemasonry

“Freemasonry is based on three great principles: brotherly love, relief, and truth” (Wilmhurst 1980:3). It has been noted that “over the years, brotherly love and relief have been so stressed that the Craft is in serious danger of becoming primarily a social and charitable organization” (*ibid.*).

⁶ While the 1911 article refers to the “illustration” of the new lodge hall, this is actually a photograph taken by the *Hustler* for the article as evidenced in the byline under the photograph (*The Little Sioux Hustler*, August 18, 1911).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 **Page** 16 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

There have been a great number of definitions put forth throughout the years and there are nearly as many definitions as there are Masons. One common definition is: "Freemasonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols." The system of morality to which we refer as Freemasonry is that which every Mason is bound to profess and practice. The elementary principles of Freemasonry are exemplified in the three degrees of the lodge. In joining a local lodge you become part of the world's largest Fraternity with a membership of approximately 4,000,000 worldwide, nearly 2,000,000 men in the United States, and 25,000 in Iowa. Each lodge in the State of Iowa operates by authority of a Charter granted by the State organization called "The Grand Lodge." There is no international or national organization of Symbolic Masonry nor is there a single spokesman for Freemasonry. While we cannot categorically define what Masonry is, we can say with assurance what it is not. It is NOT a cult, a religion, a secret society, or a political group. While Masonry is not a religion it is religious in nature. Belief in a Supreme Being is a fundamental requirement for becoming a Mason. Masonry is a charitable organization, an organization dedicated to strengthening a man's character, improving his moral and spiritual outlook, and broadening his mental horizons. Masonry seeks to make good men better; not better than others, but better than themselves (The Official Website of the Grand Lodge of Iowa 2012).

Freemasons are often the leaders in their communities, with "many of America's leaders, past and present" having been Freemasons, including fourteen United States Presidents (ibid.).

The origins of Freemasonry are often debated; however, it is generally believed that the origins can be traced back to Medieval times "when the great cathedrals of Europe were built" and "the stonemasons who created these awe-inspiring Gothic structures formed craft guilds to protect the secrets of their trade and to pass on their knowledge to worthy apprentices" (The Official Website of the Grand Lodge of Iowa 2012). Then in the seventeenth century, these craft guilds began to accept "honorary members, men of learning and position," who were not stonemasons or associated with any building trade. "As 'Accepted Masons,' they eventually grew into a separate organization called Freemasonry, a moral and ethical society that taught the 18th century ideals of equality and the importance of education in freeing mankind from prejudice, superstition and social injustice" (ibid.). Freemasons continued to use the simple stonemasons' tools "as symbols to teach their ideals" including "the square and compasses, the trowel, and the plumb and level" (ibid.).

The first surviving document to mention the Masons was the Regius Poem published in 1390, which was actually a copy of an earlier work. "In 1717, four lodges in London formed the first Grand Lodge of England, and records from that point on are more complete" for the organization (Grand Lodge of F&A Masons of Washington 2010). The Grand Lodge of England "became the first administrative or policy-making body of Freemasonry" (ibid.).

Freemasonry was transplanted to North America with the American Colonies. Many of this nation's founding fathers were Masons including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere, and John Hancock, to mention but a few. Thirteen of the 39 men who signed the United States Constitution were Masons. The first American Masonic Lodge was founded in Boston in 1733 as granted by the Grand Lodge of England (Grand Lodge of F&A Masons of Washington 2010; Peninsula Lodge #168 2012).

In America in the 1700s, African-American men had to form their own lodges, with the first being the African-American Masons of Boston formed in 1776. It was formally chartered by the Grand Lodge of England in 1784 as "African Lodge

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 **Page** 17 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

#459” (Grand Lodge of F&A Masons of Washington 2010). This developed into a separate Grand Lodge system, “known as Prince Hall Masonry” (ibid.). This despite the basic belief of Freemasonry in equality and the rules of the organization that prohibit race being used as a reason for either accepting or excluding a candidate from membership. Racial segregation in the United States was a tragic fact of life into the 1960s.

Similarly, the organization was a Fraternity of men, not women. However, women were allowed to participate in Freemasonry “from social interaction in the Orders for both men and women, to the unique needs met in the ‘women only’ Masonic-related organizations” (Grand Lodge of F&A Masons of Washington 2010). In the mid-nineteenth century, the Masonic fraternity began to create organizations that included women, “so that men and women could share Masonic fraternalism” (ibid.). In the United States, the organizations open to both to Masons and women related to Masons include: the Order of the Eastern Star (the largest such Masonic-related organization including women and established in 1850); the Order of the Amaranth (founded in 1873); and the White Shrine of Jerusalem (founded in 1894) (General Grand Chapter 2013; Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem 2013; Supreme Council 2013).

Exclusively women-only Masonic-related organizations include: “the Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America, Daughters of the Nile, the Daughters of Mokanna, and the Social Order of Beauceant” (Grand Lodge of F&A Masons of Washington 2010). Organizations for young women include the International Order of Jobs Daughters (founded in 1920) and the International Order of Rainbow for Girls (1922). There is also an organization for young men called The Order of DeMolay, which was established in 1919 in Kansas City, Missouri (ibid.).

Freemasonry in Iowa

The first Iowa Masons were granted a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Missouri in November 1840, six years before statehood would be achieved and while this area was part of the Iowa Territory. This group consisted of “a small band of Masons in Burlington [who] organized the First Lodge in Iowa Territory” (Iowa Committee on Masonic Education c.1949:21). At the time, Burlington was the territorial capital. This lodge was first known as “Burlington Lodge Under Dispensation” but was chartered as “Des Moines Lodge No. 41” on October 20, 1841, by the Grand Lodge of Missouri (Arrington 1989:3; Burlington Masons.org 2013; The Official Website of the Grand Lodge of Iowa 2012).

This first lodge was followed by charters granted for the Iowa Lodge No. 42 at Bloomington (later named Muscatine) in 1841, the Dubuque Lodge No. 62 in 1843, and the Iowa City Lodge No. 63 in 1844. These four lodges “became the nucleus of the Grand Lodge of Iowa,” which was granted its charter as the Grand Lodge of Iowa Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (A.F. & A.M.) from the Grand Lodge of Missouri in 1844.⁷ With the organization of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, the charters for the four existing lodges in the Iowa Territory were reissued and the lodges renumbered. The lodge in Burlington became Des Moines Lodge No. 1, the Iowa Lodge became No. 2, the Dubuque Lodge became No. 3, and the Iowa City Lodge became No. 4. At the time, these four lodges had a combined total membership of 101. By

⁷ The Grand Lodge of Iowa traces its roots back to the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, which received its charter in 1787 from the Grand Lodge of England. In 1813, the Grand Lodge of Tennessee was granted a charter from the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, with the Grand Lodge of Missouri then receiving its charter from the Grand Lodge of Tennessee in 1821 (The Official Website of the Grand Lodge of Iowa 2012).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 **Page** 18 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

1854, the state had 40 lodges with 955 members. By 1864, the numbers had increased substantially to 169 Masonic Lodges with 5,416 members. By 1904, the number of lodges in the state totaled 504 with 34,595 members. By 1948, there were 545 lodges with 84,802 members (Arrington 1989:1; Burlington Masons.org 2013; Iowa Committee on Masonic Education 1949:11-14; The Official Website of the Grand Lodge of Iowa 2012).

Masonic lodges began to spread across Iowa from east to west, with the greatest concentration by 1869 in the southeast quadrant of the state. This follows the settlement pattern of the state as a whole, with the earliest settlements along the Mississippi River and then spreading into the interior from southeast towards the City of Des Moines (by then the State Capital) near the center of the state by the late 1860s. There were only a few lodges in the west-central and northwest portions of the state, areas which were also sparsely populated at that time. These included lodges chartered in Council Bluffs (1856) and Sioux City (1857).⁸ However, as the railroads were built across Iowa (also primarily east to west), settlement and Freemasonry spread into the far corners of the state. By late 1890s, Masonic lodges could be found in all corners of the state and in many of its counties (Arrington 1989).

Masonic membership in Iowa continued to grow into the early twentieth century when in the 1910s-20s there was a period of great building activity of new Masonic temples in the state (Arrington 1989:24). This growth continued up to the Great Depression years of the 1930s when Masonic membership plummeted. "Renewed prosperity brought renewed interest in Masonry and membership again climbed until well after World War II" (ibid.:23). However, in the late 1950s "a steady decline started and this has continued unabated"⁹ (ibid.). The membership peaked in 1957 with a total of 95,155. "Since that date, fewer candidates, more SN-PD's, more demits and a higher death rate because of the higher average age of members have all contributed to steadily decreasing membership totals" (ibid.).¹⁰ By 1985, there were 451 lodges in Iowa with a total membership of 53,823. This followed a nationwide trend in Freemasonry where at one time there were over four million members but had declined to just under three million members by 1985 (ibid.). As of 2011, the total nationwide membership stood at 1,336,503 with Iowa's total at 20,844 in 2011 (Masonic Service Association 2011). By November 2012, there were 283 working lodges in Iowa with the total membership up to 21,700 (The Official Website of the Grand Lodge of Iowa 2012).

As membership dwindled in the mid- to late twentieth century, a number of Masonic lodges in Iowa responded by merging in order to consolidate membership and resources. It was also during this time that the Grand Lodge of Iowa completed a new Iowa Masonic Library, Museum and Administration Building in Cedar Rapids, which opened in June of 1955 and remains the center of Iowa Masonry to the present day. The library collection consists of Masonic and general books, with the library open to the public regardless of whether a Mason or not (Arrington 1989; The Official Website of the Grand Lodge of Iowa 2012).

⁸ There was even a charter granted by the Grand Lodge of Iowa for a lodge in Omaha, Nebraska, "which received its Iowa charter on June 3 [1857] and then transferred to the new Grand Lodge of Nebraska on September 23 of that same year" (Arrington 1989:11). In 1863, the Grand Lodge of Iowa also chartered St. John's Lodge No. 166 at Yankton in what was then the Dakota Territory (ibid.:11-12).

⁹ This statement would have applied up to 1989 when Arrington's book was published.

¹⁰ SNPD refers to members suspended for non-payment of dues. Demit refers to the resignation or voluntary withdrawal of a member.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 19 Property name Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

The Modale Masonic Hall and Theater

The very first Masonic lodge in Harrison County was located at Magnolia, which was the original county seat, in 1858. The lodge members met in the upper floor of the Dewell Building built two years prior. The Magnolia Lodge No. 126 celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1958. The Blue Lodge No. 232 in Missouri Valley was instituted in 1863. In 1883, The Missouri Valley lodge built a new brick hall in conjunction with the Odd Fellows order in town. The Dunlap lodge was chartered in 1869 as Hospitable Lodge No. 244 and built a new Masonic Temple in 1909. They had met prior to that in the second floor hall above the Dunlap Hardware Store. The Masons in Little Sioux received a charter for their Frontier Lodge No. 382 in 1878. They met on the second floor of Murray Hall built in 1877 to house Michael Murray's general merchandise store on the first floor.¹¹ The Frontier Lodge remained active into the 1980s. Charter Oak Lodge No. 401 was instituted in 1880 in Woodbine, while Chrysolite Lodge No. 420 in Logan was granted dispensation in 1881. Craftsman Lodge No. 490 was instituted in Persia in 1884 and consolidated with the Neola lodge in Pottawattamie County in 1979 (Book Committee 1981:37; Book Committee 1990:22; Hunt 1915:229-234; National Publishing 1891:221-225; Rogers 1998; Western Publishing 1882:297, 304, 318).

The Masonic lodge in Modale was first organized in 1896. The charter for the ACMODE Lodge No. 544 A.F. & A.M.¹² was granted by the Grand Lodge of Iowa on June 3, 1896. Their first meetings were held in the Odd Fellows Hall, and in 1911 they were able to move into their own building by moving the school and refurbishing the second floor gymnasium into their lodge hall. Carpeting was added in 1912, and an organ was acquired in 1913. A piano was added later and remains in the lodge hall on the second floor (Book Committee 1981:48). The Masons use of the building was further enhanced by the 1911 addition to the rear, which added the stage area on the first floor. The new theater provided some income to the Masons to help maintain the building. The second floor of the addition added a vestibule, office, and kitchen area for lodge use.

Charter members of the ACMODE Lodge included (in alphabetical order): William Baldwin, E.F. Belvelheimer, Lawrence Britt, C.J. Cutler, S.J. Dunn, J.B. Hiddleston, J.B. Kelley, Alfred Knoll, John Lilwall, W.H. McQueen, Jeremiah Motz, A.J. Peterson, R.H. Rhoden, and S.L. Vittitoe (Centennial Committee 1974:26). By 1915, the ACMODE Lodge had sixty members (Hunt 1915:233).

The ACME Chapter No. 280 of Order of the Eastern Star (O.E.S.) was granted a charter in Modale on October 24, 1900. Charter members of the ACME Chapter included (in alphabetical order): Nettie Bourne, Rebecca Bourne, William Bourne, Charles Cutler, Nettie Cutler, Susan Cutler, Marquis Dakin, Emma Hiddleston, Joe Hiddleston, Elizabeth

¹¹ Murray Hall still stands in Little Sioux and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998 (Rogers 1998).

¹² Reportedly, "ACMODE" does not really stand for anything, just simply the name chosen for the lodge (Joe Vittitoe, e-mail to Leah Rogers, July 8, 2013). William Kreuger of the Iowa Masonic Library in Cedar Rapids researched this question and could find no Masonic acronyms or terms to match this name. He searched the library's Biblical and Jewish dictionaries but could find no connections. Furthermore, he looked into possible connections with this name and the lodges from which the ACMODE Lodge was formed or from the names of the original members of the lodge but found none. He also wondered if the town name "Modale" somehow played into the lodge name (William Kreuger, e-mail to Leah Rogers, December 9, 2013). Therefore, at present, it does appear that ACMODE does not really stand for anything other than the name chosen for this lodge.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 **Page** 20 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

Ludwig, Francis Ludwig, Mary McCrillis, Mary McQueen, W.H. McQueen, Ella Robertson, George Robertson, Birdie Townsend, Leota Waggoner, Beulah Waterman, and Harry Waterman (Centennial Committee 1974:26).

In 1946, the ACMODE Lodge celebrated its 50th anniversary. All of the Harrison County Masonic lodges sent delegates to the Modale lodge’s celebration, with G.M. Mintum, who at the age of 82 was the oldest living member of the Modale lodge, also in attendance. At the time, James McQueen was the president of the Modale chapter.¹³ McQueen was the grandson of W.H. McQueen, a charter member of the lodge (*Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, June 6, 1946).

The theater conversion on the first floor of the building was made in 1911 as part of the rear addition, which provided space for a raised stage leaving the main hall of the first floor open for theater seating. The front porch was later enclosed on two sides to provide a ticket office and a projection room. These enclosures appear to have been completed sometime in the 1920s-30s.

The earliest movies were silent films which were shown in the lower area of the Masonic Temple. These were well attended. In later years, the business establishments sponsored “talkies”, held them out of doors and charged no fee (Centennial Committee 1974:18).

The theater in the Masonic Hall was also used for school class plays and other school and public activities as needed. In 1957, the building once again served for a time as the town’s school when the existing school building burned down.

Architectural Significance of the Modale School and Masonic Hall

The 1880 Modale School portion of the building represents a comparatively rare survival of a two story wooden frame school building in Harrison County and the State of Iowa (Beedle and Deiber 2002; Sherman, ed. 1998). It has been noted that “Nineteenth-century school style resembled church architecture. In general the schools had a square, boxy shape, with a prominent bell tower that was based on the church steeple” (Beedle and Deiber 2002:10). This is an apt description of the Modale School, which was front gabled and originally featured a prominent bell tower projecting from its façade. It is known that the second floor hall of this building was used as the gymnasium at least in its later years, with the painted basketball court markings still present underneath the carpeting of the Masonic hall. Many of the late nineteenth century frame schools burned, were demolished, or were moved and adapted for other purposes, such as the case with the Modale School. However, unlike many adapted school buildings, the Modale School building continued to serve the local school as classroom space when needed and for school events such as the senior class plays.

The building is further architecturally significant for the stylish remodeling by the Masons in 1911 when they converted the school into their lodge hall and a public theater. They expanded the building with a rear addition but also added Colonial Revival stylistic details on the façade and on the front and side porches. Some of the added details reflect

¹³ In 1945, the following officers were installed by the Modale Masons: Harold Imrie, worshipful master; James McQueen, senior warden; Earl Kenort, junior warden; E. Elliff, senior deason; Harold Dugdale, junior deason; Glen Hammer, secretary; Harry Jackson, treasurer; A.H. Williamson, senior steward; Ralph Hartsock, junior steward; and Ray Evans, tyler (*Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, January 11, 1945).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 **Page** 21 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

Masonic symbolism including the sunburst and the Masonic emblem of the compass, square, and "G" used as a gable screen detail in the front gable end.

The first floor interior was made into a public theater in 1911, with a stage added during the rear expansion of the building. Sometime in the 1920s-30s, the theater was further remodeled for use as a movie theater including enclosures of sections of the front porch for the ticket booth and projection room. The Modale School and Masonic Hall was inventoried as part of the statewide survey of movie theaters in Iowa and represents the adaptation of an earlier theater or hall in order to show movies in the early twentieth century (*Hollywood in the Heartland*, accessed at <http://www.preservationiowa.org/hollywood/index.php>, April 2013). Some of these adaptations were of nineteenth century opera houses, while in the case of the Modale building, an early 1910s stage theater was subsequently converted for the additional use of showing movies. However, the stage theater portion of the hall was left intact and continued to be used for stage productions and other public events.

Current Use of the Modale School and Masonic Hall

In 2004, the ACMODE Lodge No. 544 A.F. & A.M. was dissolved so that their membership could merge with Valley Lodge No. 232, A.F. & A.M. in Missouri Valley. This action was taken due to a dwindling membership in both lodges and the wisdom of combining resources and membership. The ACMODE Lodge hall in Modale was then given to Town and Country Arts (TCA) along with \$3,000 that had been set aside by the lodge for demolition of the building. However, it was decided to save the building by donating it to the TCA so that the building could be refurbished and continue to be used for public plays and presentations (Graham 2004). The TCA also accepted the donation of the Masonic lodge hall furnishings and accoutrements for display in the second floor lodge hall. The furnishings and items were subsequently arranged in the hall where they originally would have been during lodge meetings as guided by a former lodge member. Thus, the second floor serves as a public exhibit to educate about Modale's Masonic history, while the first floor serves as a community theater and public meeting place much as it did throughout its twentieth century history.

The Town and Country Arts made repairs to the exterior, painted the building in historic colors, refurbished the interior of both the first and second floors for public display and public use, installed a replica of the painted canvas stage curtain, and brought the building into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act by installing a ramp on the exterior, adding an accessible restroom on the first floor, and maintaining a mechanical chair lift on the second floor staircase. The TCA continues to preserve the old lodge hall and theater and is sponsoring this National Register nomination to help further those efforts. Current needs include repainting the exterior.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 22 Property name Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 **Page** 23 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 **Page** 24 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 **Page** 25 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 5 and 6, Block 2, Original Town of Modale, Harrison County, Iowa

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the two lots associated with this building from 1911 to the present.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Additional

Section Documentation **Page** 26 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

Additional Documentation

**Topographic location of Modale School and Masonic Hall showing UTM coordinate points #1-4
and National Register boundary of property.**

Source for map: USGS Mondamin Quadrangle, 7.5' series, obtained from ExpertGPS mapping software using NAD27 datum.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

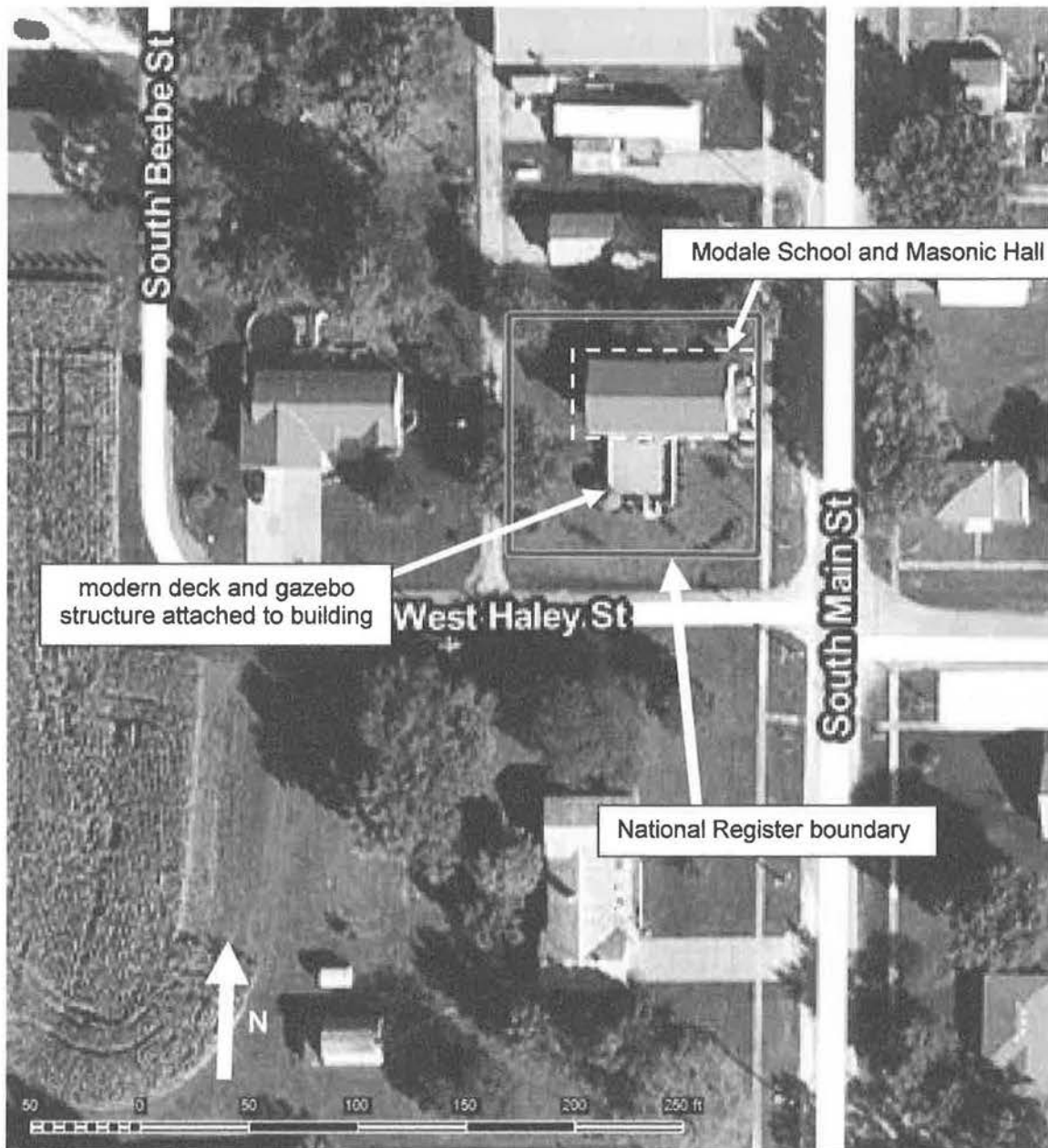
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Additional

Section Documentation **Page** 27 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

Aerial site plan map showing location of National Register boundary and building.
Source for basemap: 2010 aerial photograph obtained from ExpertGPS mapping software, 2013.

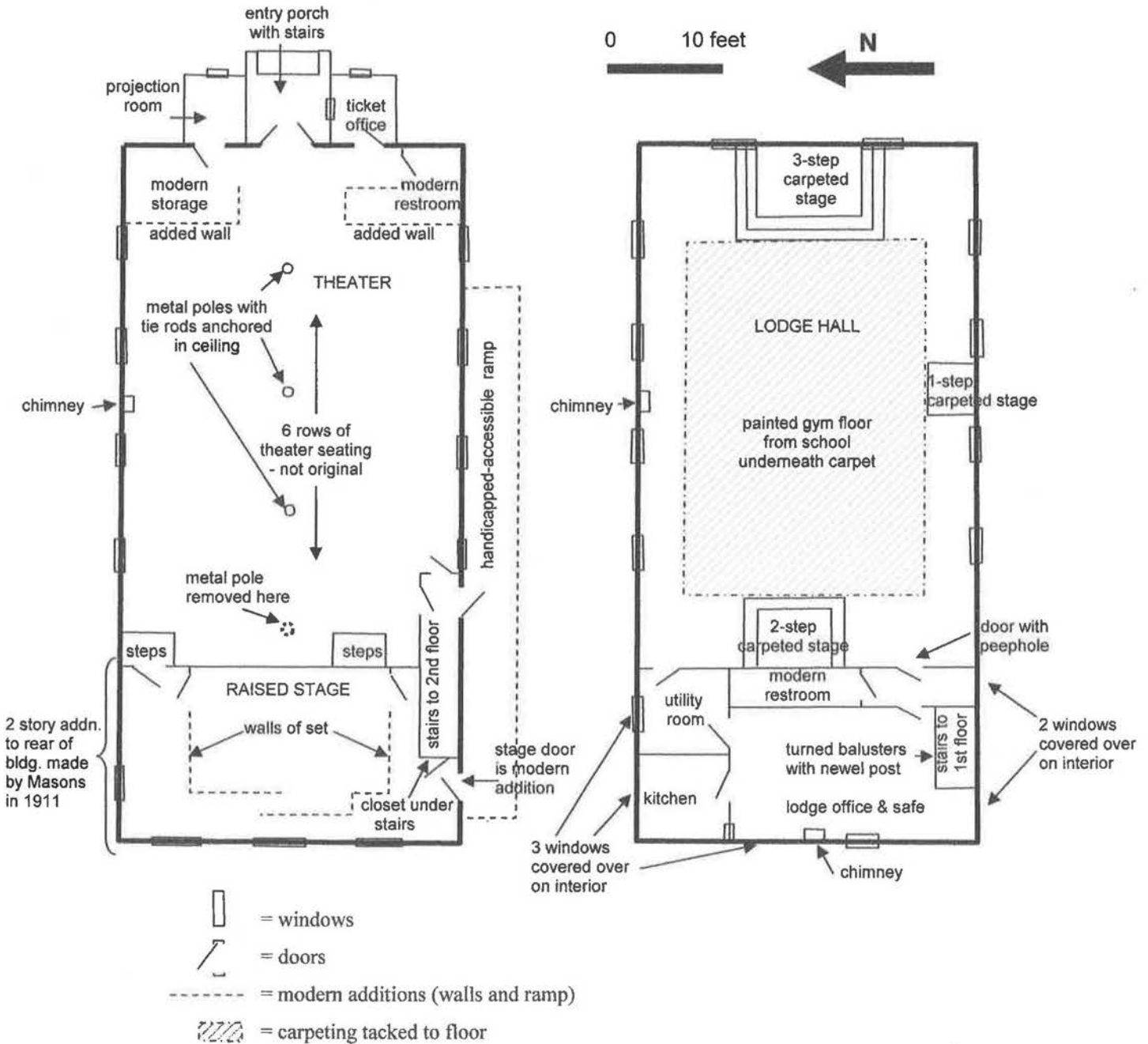


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Additional
Section Documentation Page 28 Property name Modale School and Masonic Hall
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

Sketch floor plans of the first floor (left) and second floor (right) of the Modale School and Masonic Hall
Sketch plans compiled by Leah D. Rogers, Tallgrass Historians L.C.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

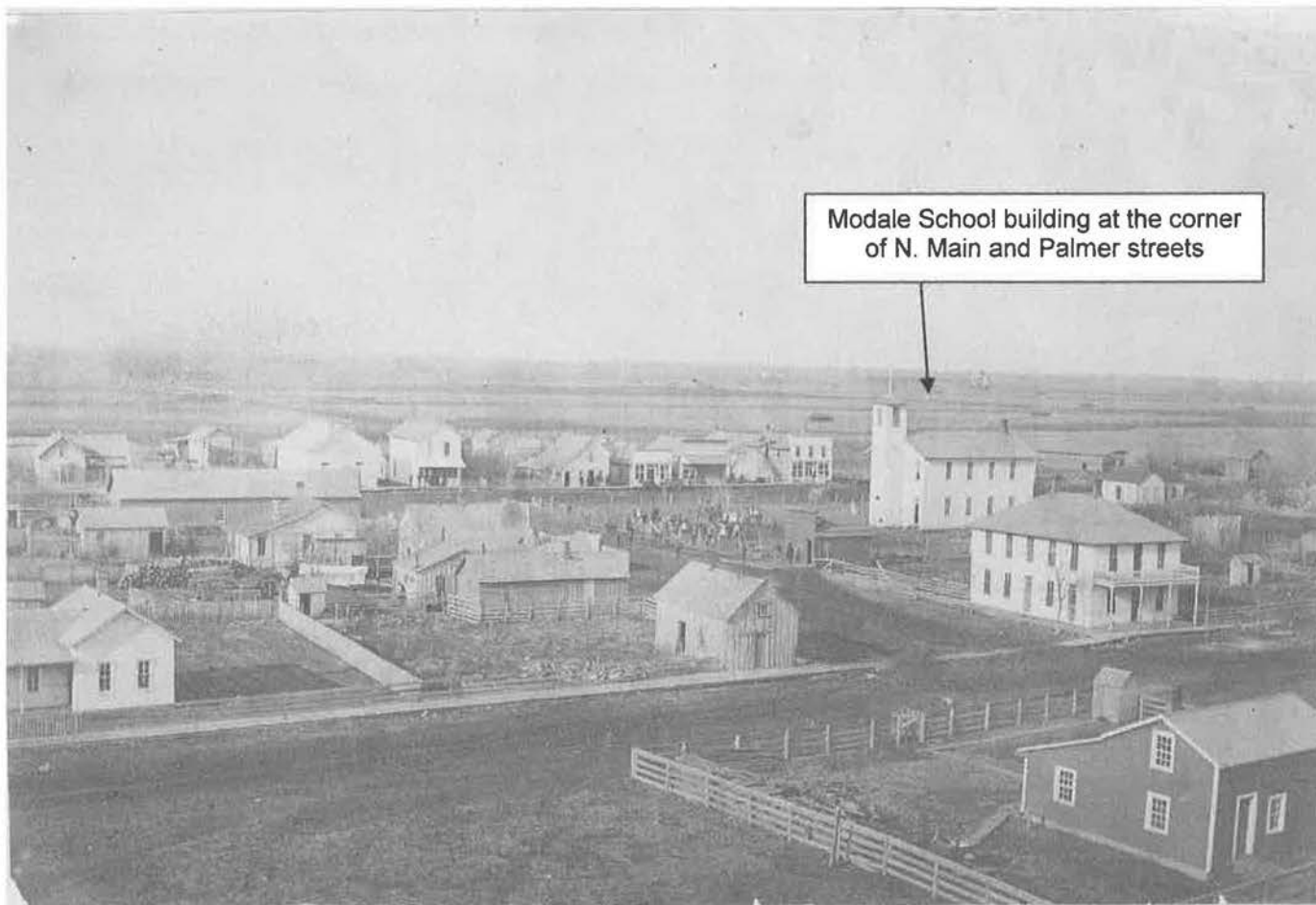
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Additional

Section Documentation Page 29 Property name Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

1884 Photograph of Modale showing the 1880 school building in its original location. View is to the WNW.
Source: Scan of photograph provided by Larry Stephens and Joe Vittitoe, Modale, Iowa.



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Additional

Section Documentation **Page** 30 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall

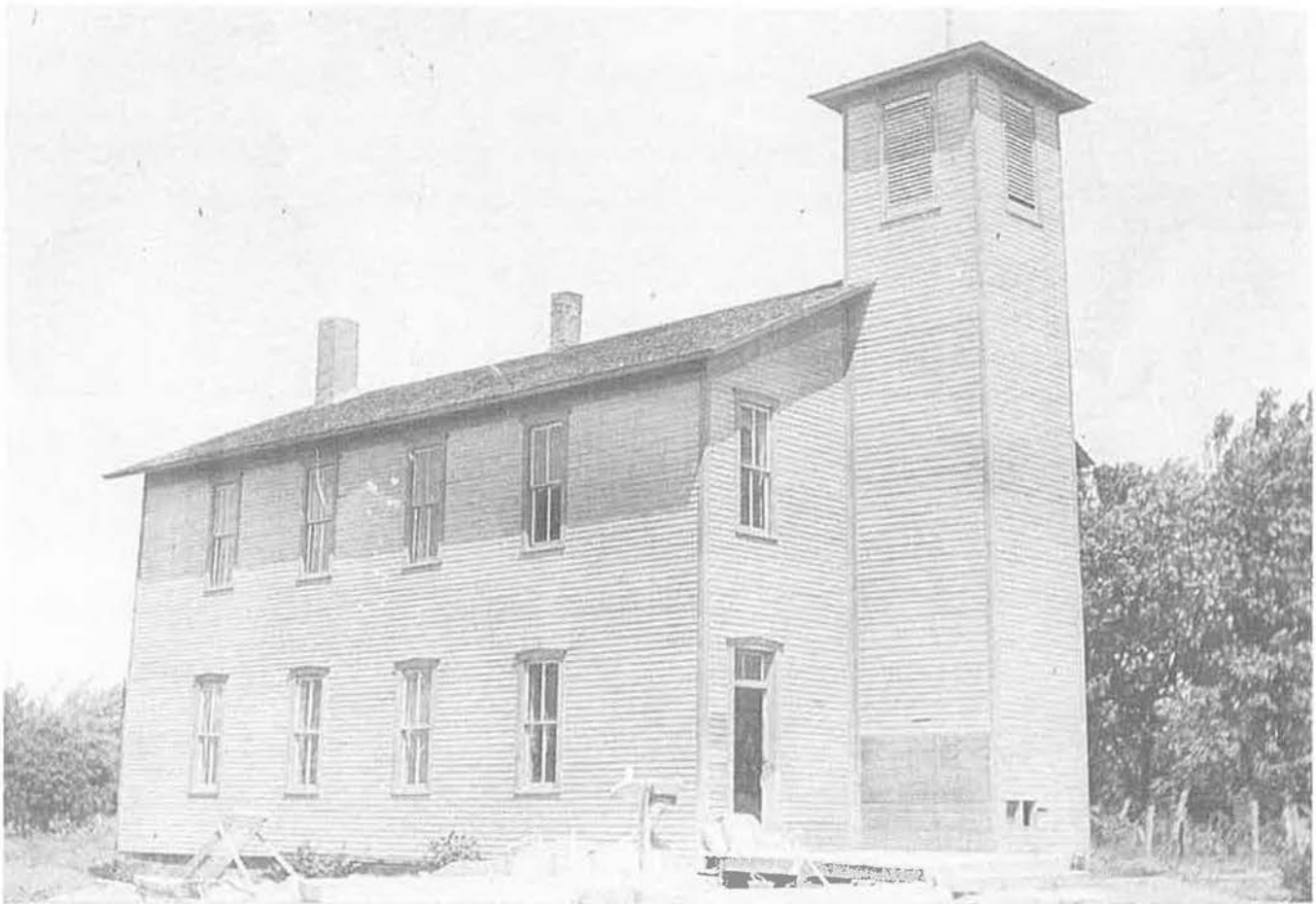
County and State Harrison County, Iowa

Photograph of Modale School, exact date unknown.

It is suspected that this is a photograph of the school after the first move to the site at the southwest corner of town, south of Haley and Main Street, although it could also represent the second move to the current site.

In either case, the view of the photograph would be to the NW.

Source: Scan of photograph provided by Larry Stephens and Joe Vittitoe, Modale, Iowa.



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Additional

Section Documentation **Page** 31 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

Photograph of the new Modale School completed by winter or early spring 1911 (foreground) and the old school at its current location (background to right) but prior to its remodeling in the summer of 1911 by the Masons.
Source: Scan of photograph provided by Larry Stephens and Joe Vittitoe, Modale, Iowa.

*Modale School & Lodge Hall
Delbert Hammer on left*



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Additional

Section Documentation **Page** 32 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

Postcard photograph (top) of the Modale School and Masonic Hall at its current location and following the remodeling of the building by the Masons in summer of 1911; Photograph (bottom) is similar or the same photo taken by *The Little Sioux Hustler* for an article published on August 18, 1911. View of both photographs is SW.

Top photograph in possession of Larry Stephens, Modale, Iowa; bottom obtained from the microfilm of the *The Little Sioux Hustler* archived at the Onawa Public Library, Onawa, Iowa.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Additional

Section Documentation Page 33 Property name Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

**1919 photograph showing Modale senior class in front of the Modale School and Masonic Hall.
View is to the WNW.**

Note that in this 1919 photograph, the front and side porches had not yet been enclosed.
Therefore, the addition of the movie theater function to the first floor hall was not made until at least the 1920s.
Source: Scan of photograph provided by Larry Stephens and Joe Vittitoe, Modale, Iowa.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

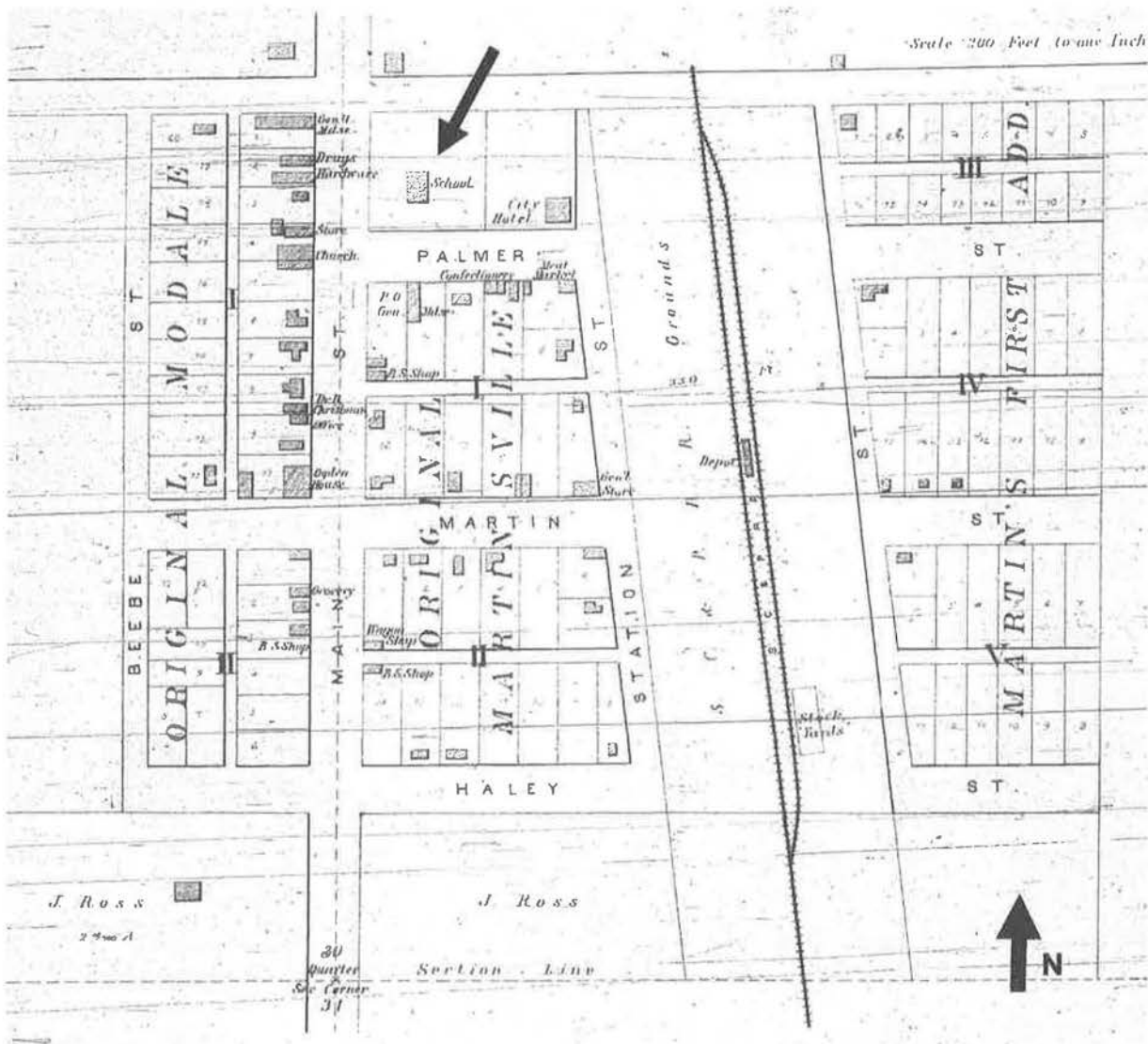
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Additional

Section Documentation Page 34 Property name Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

1884 Plat map of Modale, Iowa, showing original location of Modale School building (arrow)
Source: Allen 1884



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

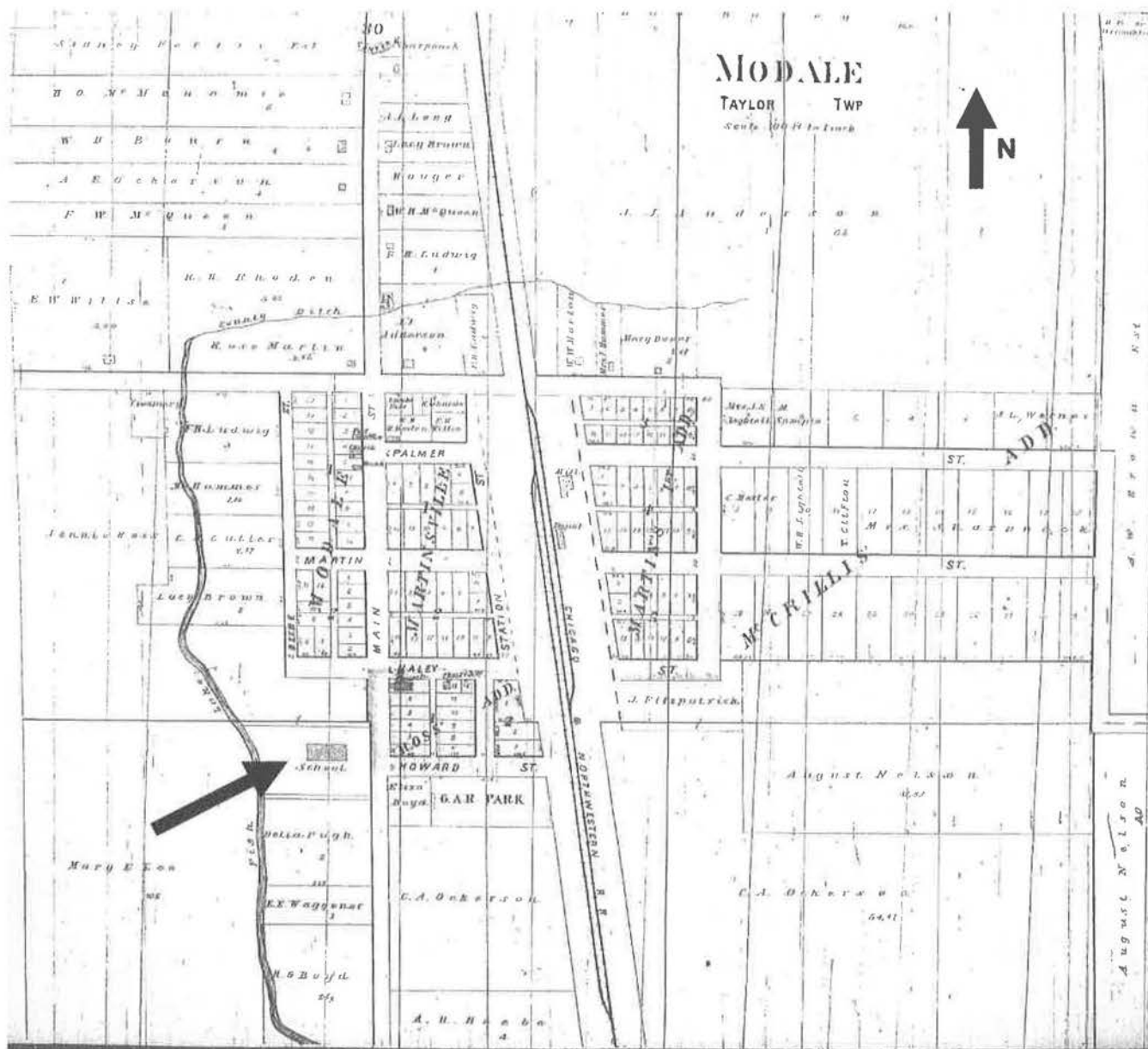
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Additional

Section Documentation Page 35 Property name Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

1902 Plat map of Modale, Iowa, showing second location of Modale School (arrow)
Source: Ogle 1902



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

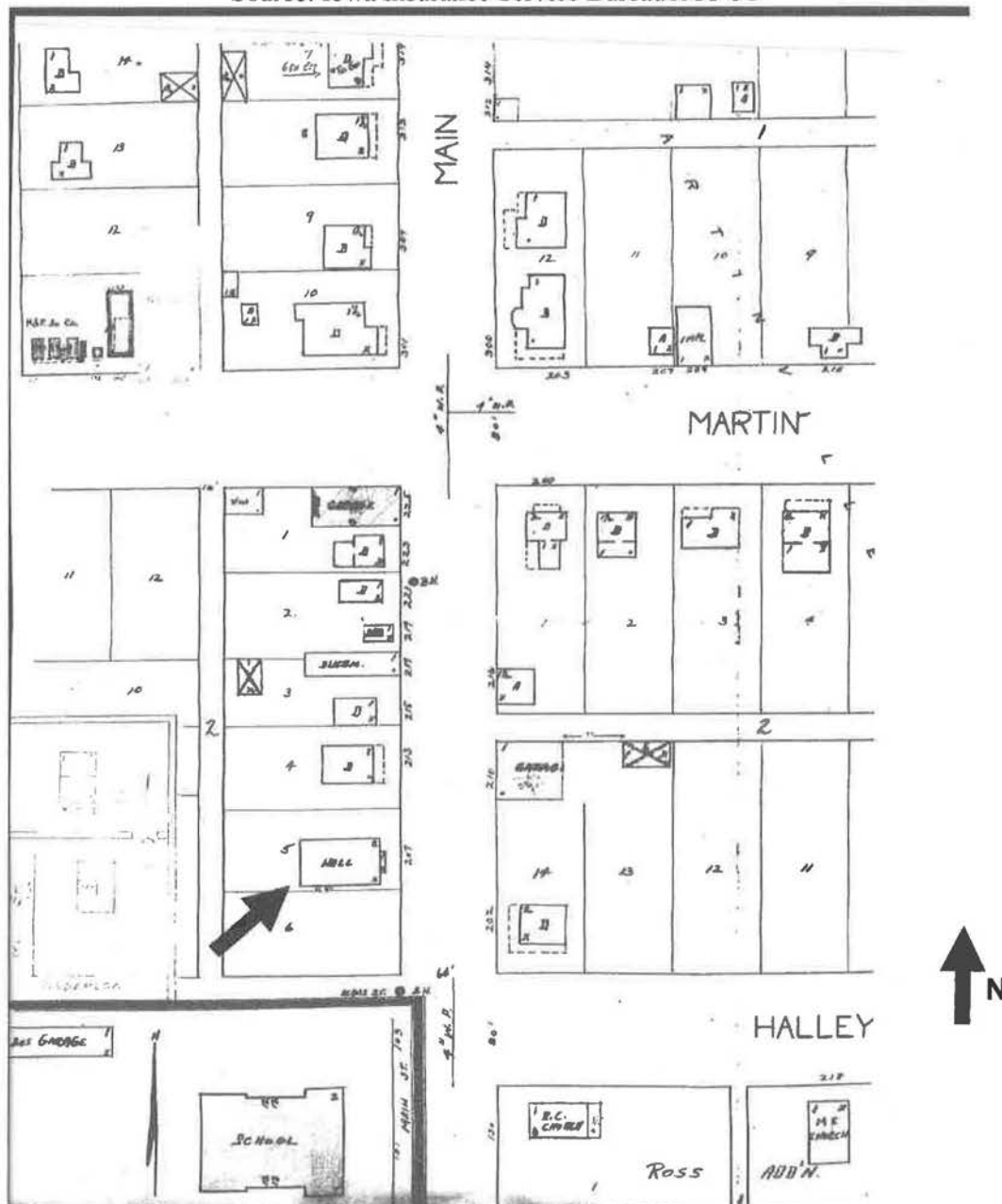
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Additional

Section Documentation Page 36 Property name Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

1930s Fire Insurance Map of Modale, Iowa, showing third and current location of
Modale School and Masonic Hall (arrow)
Source: Iowa Insurance Service Bureau 1933-38



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Additional

Section Documentation **Page** 37 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

Photographs from 2002 (top looking to the NW) and 2004 (bottom looking West) prior to restoration by Town & Country Arts. Source: Scan of photographs provided by Larry Stephens and Joe Vittitoe, Modale, Iowa.



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Additional

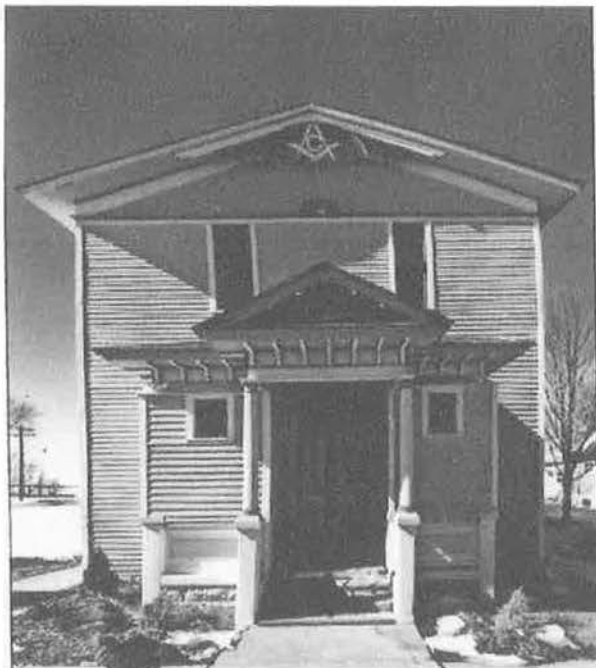
Section Documentation **Page** 38 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

Photographs taken during circa 2004 restoration by Town & Country Arts.

Views are to the NW (top), West (bottom left) and North (bottom right).

Source: Scan of photographs provided by Larry Stephens and Joe Vittitoe, Modale, Iowa.



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

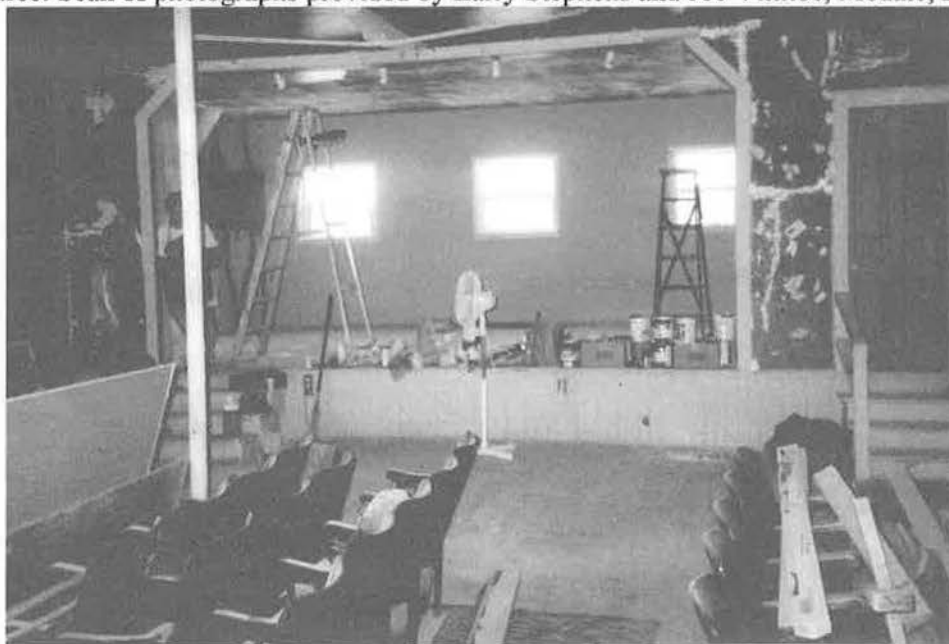
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Additional

Section Documentation **Page** 39 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

**Photographs taken during circa 2004 restoration by Town & Country Arts.
Views are of interior first floor stage area (top) looking West and second floor hall (bottom) looking East.
Source: Scan of photographs provided by Larry Stephens and Joe Vittitoe, Modale, Iowa.**



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Additional

Section Documentation **Page** 40 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

Detail photographs of current building.

Top: detail of front gable end sunburst and Masonic symbol looking West;
All photographs taken by Tallgrass Historians L.C., April 6, 2013



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Additional

Section Documentation **Page** 41 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

Detail photographs of current building.

Top left: inside of metal-clad door to projection room looking North; top center: inside of cement-coated projection room looking East; top right: inside of ticket booth showing intact porch columns looking NE; bottom left: door with peephole cover on second floor Masonic hall vestibule door; bottom center: one of the Masonic aprons displayed in the hall; bottom right: Masonic bible on center altar/podium. Photographs by Tallgrass Historians L.C., April 6, 2013.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

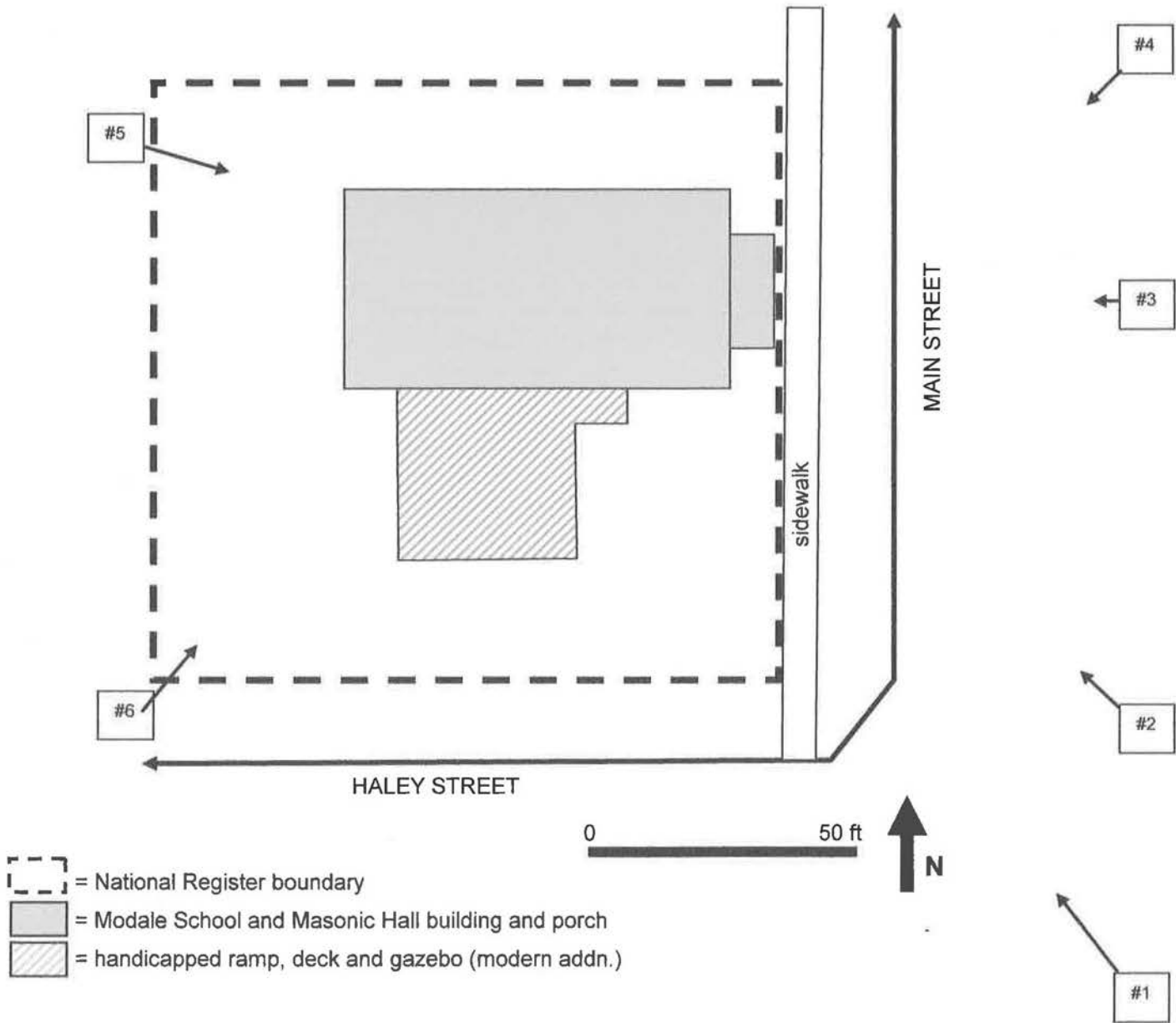
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Additional

Section Documentation Page 42 Property name Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

Map showing direction of exterior photographs
Sketch plan map compiled by Tallgrass Historians L.C., April 2013



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

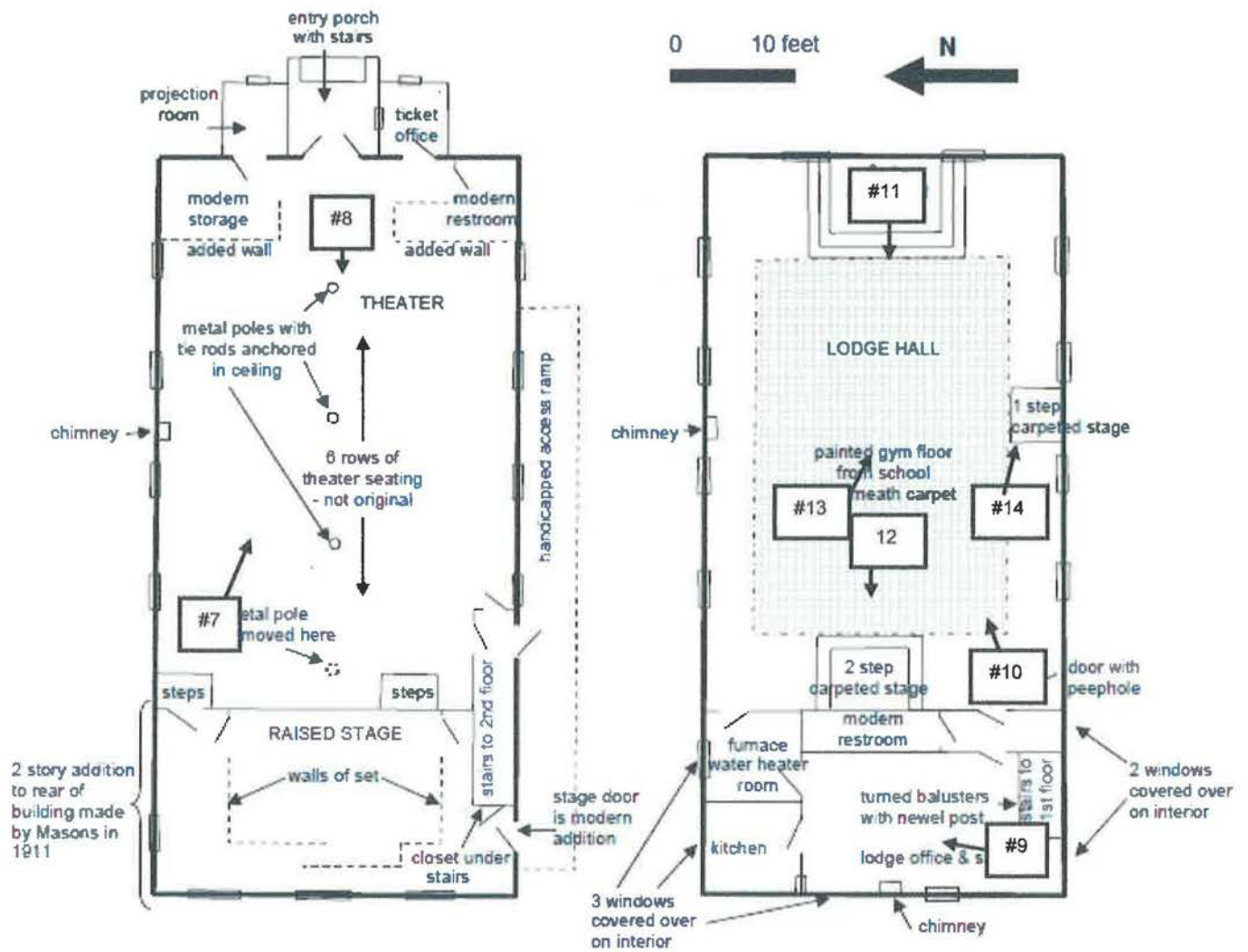
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Additional

Section Documentation Page 43 Property name Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

Map showing direction of interior photographs
Sketch plan map compiled by Tallgrass Historians L.C., April 2013



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Additional

Section Documentation **Page** 44 **Property name** Modale School and Masonic Hall

County and State Harrison County, Iowa

List of Photographs

Name of Property: Modale School and Masonic Hall

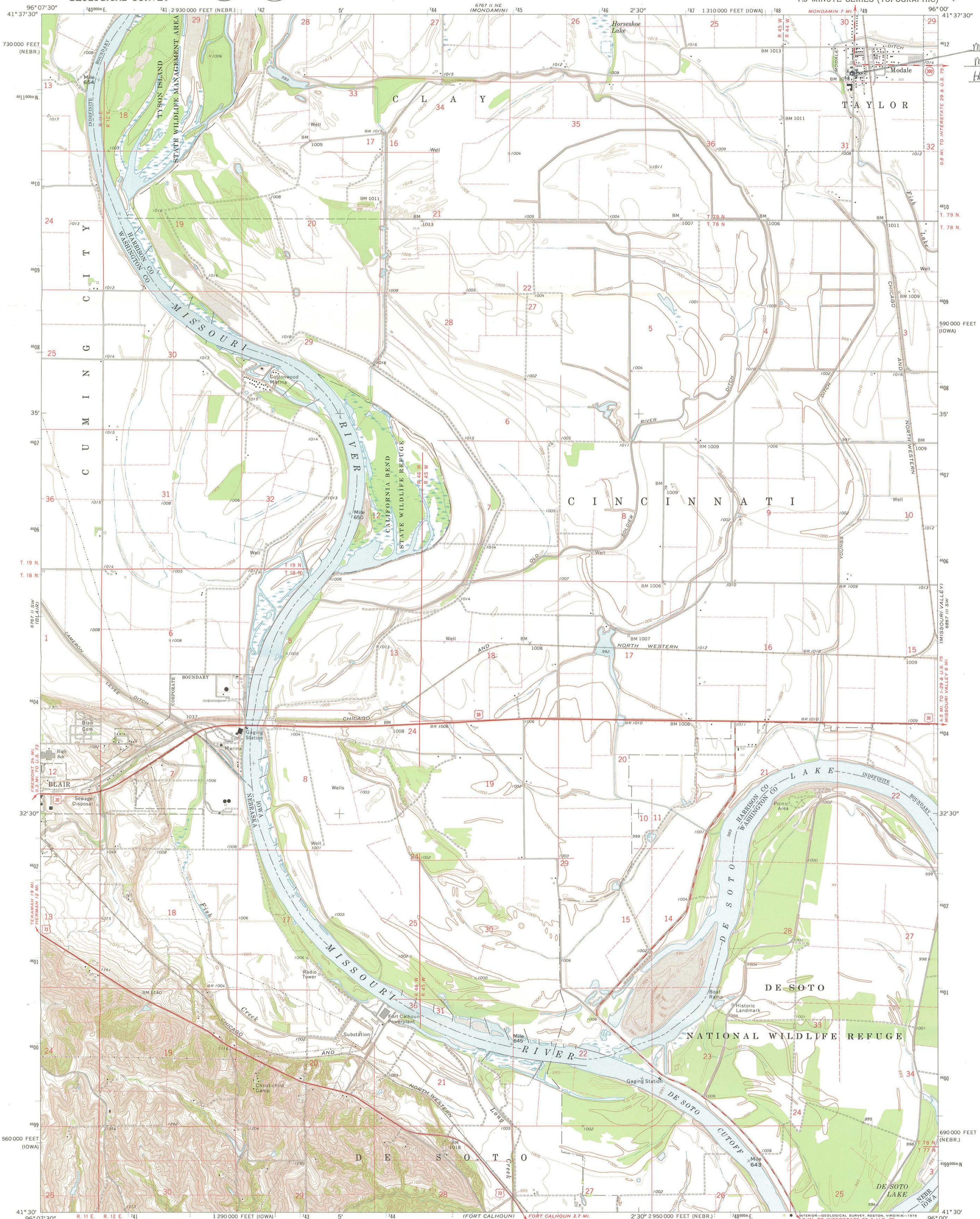
County and State: Harrison County, Iowa

Name of Photographer: Leah D. Rogers, Tallgrass Historians L.C.

Date of Photographs: April 6, 2013

Location of original digital photographs: Tallgrass Historians L.C., 2460 S. Riverside Drive, Iowa City, IA 52246

<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
#1	General view of Modale School and Masonic Hall looking to NNW from intersection of Main and Haley streets
#2	General view of building looking to NW from across Main Street just north of Haley Street
#3	Façade of building looking to the West from across Main Street
#4	General view of building looking to SW from across Main Street
#5	Rear of building looking ESE from alley
#6	General view of building looking NE from Haley Street
#7	Interior of first floor theater hall looking ESE
#8	Interior of first floor theater hall looking West
#9	Interior of second floor office/kitchen/utility room of Masonic hall looking NNE
#10	Interior of second floor Masonic hall looking ENE
#11	Interior of second floor Masonic hall looking West
#12	Detail of West stage and accoutrements of interior second floor Masonic hall looking West
#13	Interior of second floor Masonic hall looking ESE and showing central altar
#14	Detail of South stage and accoutrements of interior second floor Masonic hall looking ESE

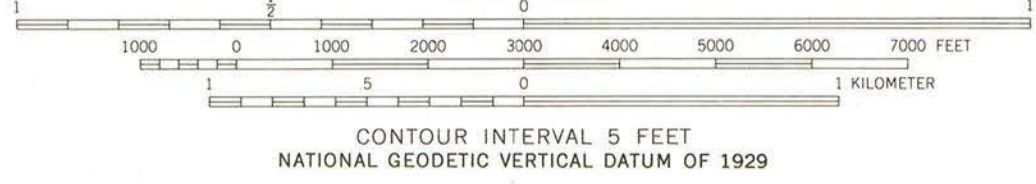
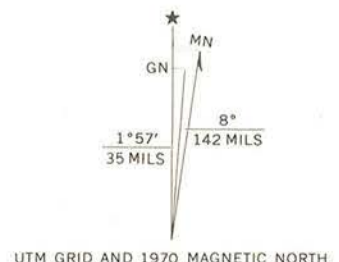


Modale School and
Masonic Hall
Harrison County, IA

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1965 and planimetric surveys 1970
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Iowa coordinate system, south zone
and Nebraska coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is uncheckered
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

U.S. Route State Route



MODALE, IOWA-NEBR.
N4130-W9600/7.5

1970

AMS 6767 II SE-SERIES V876















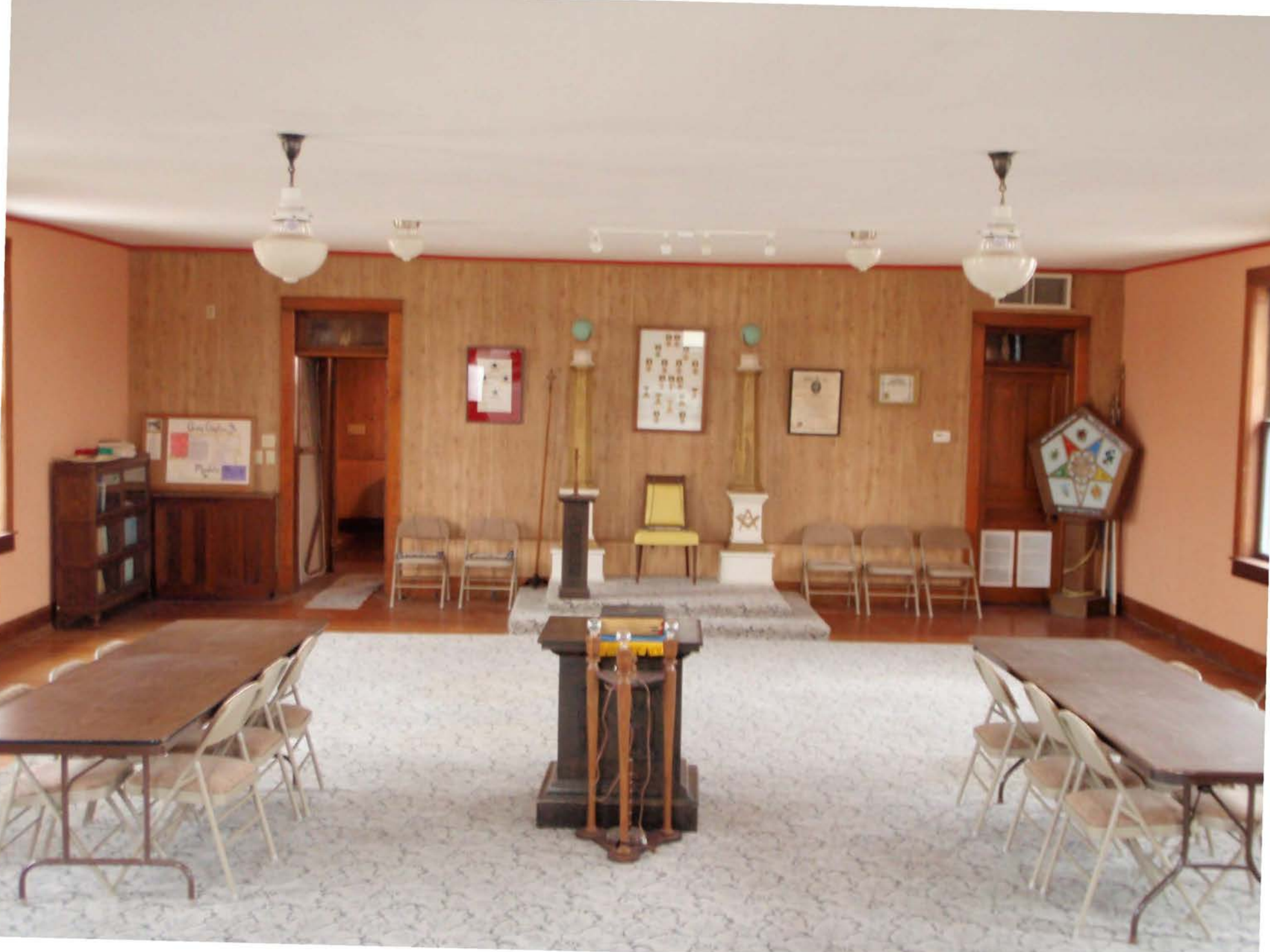
EXIT

Thank You TCA















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Modale School and Masonic Hall
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Harrison

DATE RECEIVED: 12/20/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/21/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/05/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/05/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13001136

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/5/2014 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A&C
REVIEWER Patrick Andrus DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 2/5/2014

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.

Harrison

CLG NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW

CLG Name ~~CLG~~ Date of Public Meeting 8-24-2013

Property Name ~~Property~~ Modale School

1. For Historic Preservation Commission:

- Recommendation of National Register eligibility
- Recommendation of National Register ineligibility

Signature Gayle Pitt Date 8-27-2013

Print Name Gayle Pitt

Title Chairman, Harrison County Board of Supervisors

Reason(s) for recommendation:
Well-founded application; well documented

2. For Chief Elected Local Official:

- Recommendation of National Register eligibility
- Recommendation of National Register ineligibility

Signature Gary Klein Date 8-24-2013

Print Name Gary Klein

Title Mayor of Little Sioux

Reason(s) for recommendation:
Valid application data and reasons

3. Professional Evaluation:

- Recommendation of National Register eligibility
- Recommendation of National Register ineligibility

Signature Ralph J. Christian Date 10-30-13

Print Name RALPH J. CHRISTIAN

Title SHPO HISTORIAN

Reason(s) for recommendation:

Open house at Murray Hall

Members of the Harrison County Preservation Association and the Little Sioux Historic Preservation Assn., invite the public to an open house to view the well-preserved 1877 Murray Hall building on Saturday, Aug. 24. The two groups have been working on improvements to the hall and to its displays of artifacts and of family histories. The Hall is also a site that has a great deal of information about the history of the HCPC and its activities as a Certified

Local Government Entity. The HCPC along with the Little Sioux Preservation Assn. will meet at 3:15 p.m., Aug. 24, in Murray Hall. Among items on the agenda is a review of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the TCA building in Modale. The building has played several interesting roles in the community's life, from school to movie theater to Masonic Lodge, to its current home of the Town and Country Arts programs. One of

the responsibilities of the HCPA, is to review such nominations and report the results of that discussion to the State Historical Society. Those comments become part of the process that leads to National Register status for historic properties.

When you are visiting the Homecoming Celebration Aug. 24, stop in to visit Murray Hall and see the artifacts. The hall is also available for individuals or tours at other times.

The press release and open house drew five times the average number of visitors to the Hall on the 24th.

There, they viewed an exhibit of information regarding the National Register process and procedure, including material from the email to our Commission re: tax incentives and useful links to further information.

WAIVER OF NOTIFICATION

Elizabeth Foster Hill, Manager
National Register/Tax Incentive Programs
600 E. Locust Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Ms. Foster Hill,

I hereby waive the right to the 60-day notification period as required by the National Register notification process for the following properties:

- Modale School

Dary Klein
Mayor

8-20-2013
Date

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

MARY COWNIE, DIRECTOR
CHRIS KRAMER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR



SUSAN KLOEWER
ADMINISTRATOR



MATTHEW HARRIS
ADMINISTRATOR

December 18, 2013

Carol Shull, Chief
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, N.W.-- 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

The following National Register nomination(s) are enclosed for your review and listed if acceptable.

- Highlandville School, 3499 Highlandville Road, Decorah, Winneshiek County
- Shelby Consolidated School, 304 Western Avenue, Shelby, Shelby County
- Scotch Grove Historic District, Intersections of State Highway 38; 11th Avenue and County Road E17, Monticello vicinity, Jones County
- Modale School and Masonic Hall, 107 S. Main Street, Modale, Harrison County

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Foster Hill, Manager
National Register and Tax Incentive Programs

STATE HISTORICAL BUILDING
600 EAST LOCUST
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

T. (515) 281-5111
F. (515) 242-6498

WWW.CULTURALAFFAIRS.ORG