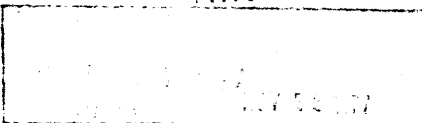


10-10-73 10731

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



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

NAME

HISTORIC Masonic Temple Building

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1614 Welton Street

CITY/TOWN Denver COUNTY Denver STATE Colorado

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1

STATE CODE CO COUNTY CODE 031

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Masonic Temple Association

STREET & NUMBER 1614 Welton Street

CITY/TOWN Denver STATE Colorado

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURT CASE Clark & Associates, City & County of Denver

RECORD # OR DEED # 200 Franklin St., Denver, Colo.

STREET & NUMBER 200 Franklin St.

CITY/TOWN Denver STATE Colorado

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Colorado State Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE 1973

ADDRESS 1445 Cleveland Place (Denver)

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DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

DESCRIPTION

The Masonic Temple is a 5-story commercial building located on the N.E. corner of 16th and Welton Streets. Its massing, materials, and detail show it to be part of the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival, and possibly derived from Venetian prototypes portrayed in Ruskin's *Stones of Venice*.

The building has two dissimilar facades. The 16th St. facade is 125 feet long and the Welton St. facade is 100 feet long. The ground floor, as originally constructed, was of rough-faced Colorado granite. The upper portion is of red sandstone, also rough-faced, with the exception of the trimmings, which is smooth-faced.

As originally constructed, the 16th St. facade is divided into three parts. The central portion, which contains the office entrance, is "slightly recessed and flanked on either side by a wing rising above the central parapet and terminating in a flat pitched gable with square stone turrets at each corner and fluted at peak. Each wing is divided into two bays; the piers, plain below, are surmounted above the detailed string course of the third story, and crowned with richly-carved capitals, unique in design, at the fifth story. Above the caps the piers are connected by a series of Romanesque arches with enriched label moldings [sic]. Above the arches at the roof level is the main cornice and over the cornice rise the gables, turrets, and parapets. The tympanums [of the gables and] filled with foliated carving of ornate character."

The ground floor fenestration is large shop-front windows between the strong, plain granite piers of the building (originally). As originally constructed, the main entrance on 16th St. is centered in the facade. It is a Romanesque form supported by precisely-carved clustered columns. The second floor windows are rectangular-arched, while those of the third floor are rectangular. "Those of the fourth and fifth stories are more ornamental, being transomed and partitioned with carved caps and panels, the upper portion of these windows... being... filled with stained glass." The main entrance arch is repeated in the arches of the central fourth floor windows. There is one more bay similar to those previously described "on the alley where the stone work is returned about 22 feet from Sixteenth."

Immediately above the fifth story is the loggia "...8 feet by 48 feet, with marble floor, carved [Romanesque] capitals, [round] stone arches, and ornamental stone balustrades opening out onto Sixteenth Street [which afforded] a delightful retreat for rest or social converse and grand scenic advantages." This loggia was a "pleasing feature of the Sixteenth street elevation."

As originally constructed, the Welton St. facade "is divided into two parts, the portion at the extreme left [North end] projecting beyond the main line of the building as carried up in the form of a massive tower and terminates with pinnacled balustrade and square turrets at each angle similar to those described on Sixteenth Street." There are four bays on Welton Street similar to those described on 16th. These regular bays give the Welton facade a sense of ornamentation which seems to be lacking in the 16th St. facade.

SEE PLAN, SHEET 1 & 2.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS

SPECIFIC DATES Construction laid April 6, 1889

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Masonic Temple Building is historically and architecturally significant as the work of Frank E. Hibel, late 19th century.

DISCUSSION

The Order of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, of its ideals of liberty and George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin, were prominent in the forefront, bringing with them a sense of community.

Jerome Smiley, noted local historian, noted that Denver's early history included Sagendorf, and Charles H. Blodgett. The first Masonic gathering in Denver was founded in a cabin in Golden and along with the Denver lodge, themselves. Other lodges were founded in Colorado Springs and also granted charters under Wyoming, and Utah.

Many prominent early citizens including: William N. Byers, founder and L.N. Greenleaf, nationally-known "Sickin's Store", Col. (Rev.) John M. Chivington, first Grand Master of Colorado, Samuel E. Elbert, Territorial Governor, Richard Spry, Mayor of Denver, Wolfe Lintoner, Mayor of Denver and Henry M. Teller, U.S. Senator during Arthur's administration.

The two main concerns of their dead and their own future.

SEE PLAN, SHEET 1 & 2.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FORM NO. 100-CR-1
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DATE ENTERED MAY 2 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

On the ground floor of the Melton St. "tower" is the Masonic entrance. "It is the most ornamental feature of the exterior of the building, and consists of a single Romanesque arch of red stone, of fifteen feet span, springing from groups of clustered granite columns with beautifully carved caps. The arch is moulded [at the intrados] and enriched [by a dentiled arcivolts moulding and carved foliage] and the spandrels filled with elaborate and artistic carving of foliage interlaced with appropriate Masonic symbols. On either side of the arch is an ornamental column of red stone, of quaint design, whose sub-base is founded on a pedestal of moulded and polished granite. The east of the pedestal at the right hand side of the entrance is the cornerstone of the building and bears the inscription:

Completed by
Denver Lodge, No. 5, A.F.M.H.
Union Lodge, No. 4, A.F.M.H.
Denver Chapter, No. 2, R.A.M.
Colorado Commandery, No. 1, R.T."

and on the left side of the arch;

"Weld by the M.W. Grand Lodge of Colorado,
A.F.M.H., April 25th, 1857"
A.D. 1857

"The whole structure presents a beautiful appearance and will be one of the finest Masonic buildings from an artistic standpoint, in the United States."

ALTERATIONS

Over the years this building has experienced many alterations. The ground floor occupants aside, we can be expected, been changed and now harbor the usual confusing cluster of signs and covering panels used in a futile attempt to "modernize" the building. At the neckline, the pierced balustrade has been removed, along with both the pyramidal finials which were placed atop the "towers" flanking the gables, and the ornate carving in the tympanum of the gables.

The greatest exterior changes, by far, were the removal of the 10th St. entrance, the total removal of the balcony over the Masonic entrance (probably due to stone decay) and the blocking-up of the 5th floor loggia and 6th floor and fifth floor windows, excepting those in the Melton St. entrance "tower". These are the two factors, however, which ameliorate these changes. The first is that the blocking-up was done with a material whose texture and color is quite similar to that of the smooth-cut sandstone of the building trim. The second is that the great stained glass panels from these windows are, according to reliable witnesses, still in the building, mounted and braced. Most of these exterior modifications and many interior modifications including relocated stairways and new elevators, were probably done in 1948.

Although these changes may seem overwhelming, they really are not. The Masonic Temple Building, because of its materials and massing, as well as the remaining finely ornate carved decoration, still retains its strong late-19th-century character.

SIGNIFICANCE

CHECK ONE
 ORIGINAL SITE
 CHECK ONE
 MOVED DATE _____

KNOW PHYSICAL APPEARANCE
 ground building located on the N.E. ...
 ground ...
 ...

... divided into three ...
 ...
 ...

... front windows between the ...
 ...
 ...

... 11.6 feet by 43 feet, ...
 ...
 ...

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER SPECIFY	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Completed and laid BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank E. Edbrooke, archit.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Masonic Temple Building, built 1889-90, is quite significant both historically and architecturally. It was for many years the center of the Masonic Order in Colorado. The building gains added significance since it is the work of Frank E. Edbrooke, an important Denver architect of the late 19th century.

DISCUSSION

The Order of ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons (A.F.A.M.) has, because of its ideals of liberty and humanity, been a tremendous force in America. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin, founders of the United States, were Masons. As America grew to the west, Masons were always in the forefront, bringing with them a love of freedom, a spirit of lawfulness, and a sense of community.

James Soley, noted local historian, stated that Masonic activities shaped Colorado's early history. Masons were both numerous and conspicuous in Denver's founding, including such pioneer figures as Henry Allen, Andrew Stangerford, and Charles H. Blake (founder of Blake Street in Denver). The first Masonic meeting in Colorado took place on November 3, 1858--the year Denver was founded--in a cabin near Cherry Creek. Quickly following this came lodges in Golden and at Gold Hill. On August 2, 1861, these lodges, along with the Denver lodge, formed the Colorado Grand Lodge and rechartered themselves. Other lodges sprung up soon after: Denver Lodge No. 5 in 1861, Union Lodge No. 7 in 1863, Commonweal Lodge in Boulder (1865), and lodges in Colorado Springs and Georgetown (1867). The Colorado Grand Lodge also granted charters under dispensation to the first lodges in Montana, Wyoming, and Utah.

Many prominent early residents of Denver and Colorado were Masons including: William N. Byers, founder and publisher of the Rocky Mountain News; L.N. Greenleaf, nationally-recognized poet and author of "The Lodge Over Siskin's Corner"; Col. (2nd Reg.) John M. Chivington, leader at the Sand Creek massacre and first Grand Master of Colorado; Samuel H. Elbert, Territorial Governor of Colorado, 1873-4; Richard Sopris, Mayor of Denver from 1867 to 1867; Wolfe Londoner, Mayor of Denver from 1869 to 1871; and Henry M. Teller, U.S. Senator and Secretary of the Interior in Chester A. Arthur's administration.

The two main concerns of early Masons were usually a cemetery for burying their dead and their own temple buildings. In fact, many of the early ...

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER **8**

PAGE **2**

40 acres of land in North Denver to be their cemetery. Subsequently they sold 10 acres to the Odd Fellows. After several years of joint ownership, they realized that Denver's growth had made their land quite valuable. They graded, platted and sold the land as the Union [sic] Division. The proceeds from the sale, which took place over a period of time, went into the Temple Fund. In 1883 many Denver Masons wished to build their temple, but they could not decide on a location and nothing was done. As the proceeds from the land sales filled the coffers of Denver Masonry, however, four Denver lodges got together to form the Masonic Temple Association. They were Denver Lodge No. 5, Union Lodge No. 7, Denver Chapter No. 2 (Royal Arch Masons), and the Colorado Conventory No. 1 (Knights Templar), and in 1889 they bought lots 13, 14, 15 and 16, Block 174, East Denver and were ready to build.

Masons were very important in the economic and ceremonial life of Denver, making the beginning of construction of a public building a significant event. They have laid the cornerstones for many of the important public buildings in Denver, from the Arapahoe School (1878, first in Denver, 2nd in Colo.) through Old Main of the University of Colorado (1875), the New Post Office (1911), and the Denver City and County Building (1931, listed in the National Register of Historic Places 2/74). On July 4, 1890, the day after dedicating their new home, the Masonic Temple Building, they participated in the laying of the cornerstone of the Colorado State Capitol (listed in the National Register of Historic Places, 2/74).

The prestige and wealth of the Masons in Denver is evidenced in the fact that their huge new Temple was built in the heart of what had, by 1889, become the most valuable commercial real estate in Denver. They spared no expense in their building to make it, simply, "the best". The citizens of Denver knew this and their pride can be seen in these descriptive phrases: "Massive and Beautiful Structure now in Course of Erection", "A Building that will compare with any other of a like character in the United States", and "Already the Admiration of our Citizens and our Visitors to the City".

Frank E. Etbrooke, an early Mason, was the architect of the Masonic Temple. His firm "was almost exclusively responsible for the architectural maturity of Denver's downtown in the late 1880's and 1890's". His stylistically advanced facades and corner buildings, as well as the large number of completed works, show him an equal to more well-known firms such as Adler and Sullivan or Burnham and Root. After working briefly as a railroad architect, he came to Denver in 1889 to supervise construction of the Labor Block on Larimer at 16th. He stayed until his death in 1913, leaving a tremendous impact on Denver. Etbrooke's firm designed most of Denver's large important commercial buildings, including the Labor Grand Opera House (1888, demolished), the McPhee Building (1889, demolished), the Majestic Building (1893, demolished 1/77), the Denver Dry Goods Co. store (1894), and the Broad Palace Hotel (1895-6, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, 5/74).

Note: The Labor Block, which he supervised in 1889, is also demolished.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

The building design, involving the facade, was rigidly determined. The "corner" expressing their boldness in a Richardsonian style. Etbrooke's design was a masterpiece.

The facade and floor windows and give the building a unique interest. Ironically, it accomplished its purpose in the 19th-century character of individuality--a true

CONTINUATION OF 17
Denver Lodge No. 5.
Membership, 71
Oct. 1, 1934
Grand Lodge A.F.M.
1961)
Hubbard, Gregory H.
Rocky Mountain
Smiley, Jerome E.,
1901)
Westmoreland, Elmer
Historic Data

10-17-77

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

The building design program that Edbrooke had to face was a tough one, involving the integration of a large ceremonial volume, whose spaces were rigidly determined by Masonic ritual, with a large open commercial area. The "corner tower" device was his way of uniting both functions while expressing them both. While this creates a "busy" facade not usually appreciated in a Richardsonian commercial building, when one considers the problems, Mr. Edbrooke comes off very well, indeed.

The facade and massing of the Masonic Temple were meant to express "Safety and solidity". However, the top-heaviness created by the large upper-floor windows and the "wattle effect" of sunlight on the rough-cut stone give the building a contrasting visual instability, and tremendous visual interest. Ironically, the later alterations to the building have not accomplished its "modernization", but have added to the stern, massive 19th-century character, making it a great asset with its impressive individuality—a trait lacking in many buildings constructed since.

CONTINUATION OF ITEM 8: SOURCE LIST

Denver Lodge No. 9, Historical Notes, Dispositions, Charter and Roll of Members, 10th Anniversary Publication of Denver Lodge No. 9, 1861, 1961.

Grand Lodge A.F.M. of Colorado, Centennial Celebration 1861-1961 (Denver, 1961)

Hubbard, Gregory K., Interview with Mr. Hubbard 1/2/77

Rocky Mountain News, article in Denver Masonry, Sept. 29, 1929 sec. 1 p. 8

Smiley, Jerome G., History of Denver (Denver; Times-Sun Publishing Co., 1961)

Westmoreland, Elke, "Office Building's a part 17th Street evolution", Historic Denver News, Jan. 4, 1977 p. 4

10-17-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

"It is a fine building. The architecture is not quite either side of the stone and the

and the

the State ALTA

group the attention has been given to the typology

St. ex (prob all for "tower". The fir color i trim.

are, so backlit. includi. The Mar the rear late-19th

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Prottell, Richard R., Historic Denver, The Architects and the Architecture (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1973), p. 33-53
Colorado Exchange Journal, "The Masonic Temple" (Denver, Colo.) Oct. 1889
 Although hard to trace, this article provided the best, most detailed and comprehensive descriptions of the bldg. Unfortunately, it was an incompletely-labelled clipping.
 SEE CORRELATION SHEET P.3

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY APPROX. .237 ACRES
 UTM REFERENCES

A	13	5100840	4308190	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 13, 14, 15, & 16 Block 17, East Denver

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME: William J. Hamley
 ORGANIZATION: Historic Denver, Inc.
 ADDRESS: 370 Pennsylvania St.
 CITY: Denver
 STATE: Colorado
 PHONE: (303) 433-4931
 DATE: 1/10/77
 TELEPHONE: (303) 637-1858

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

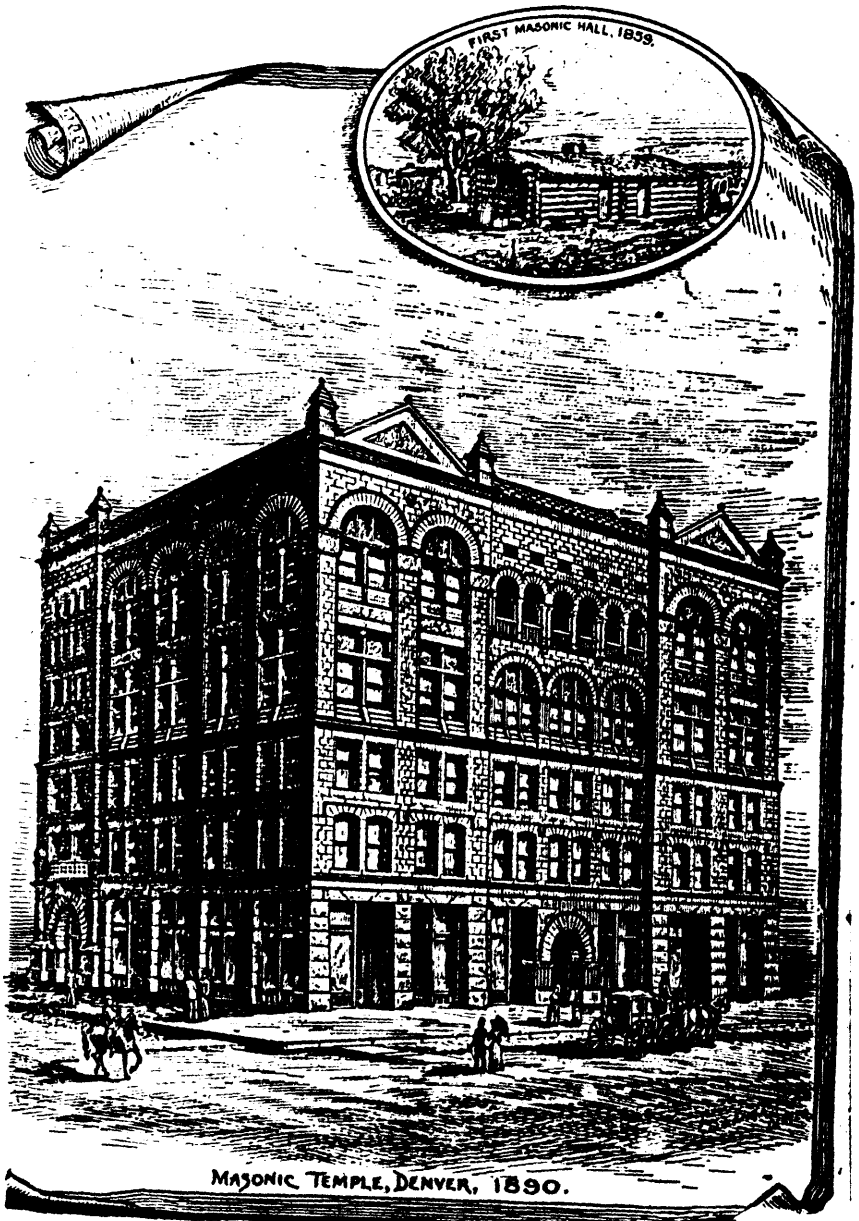
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE: *[Signature]*

TITLE

DATE: NOV 21, 1977

[Empty box for additional notes or signatures]



MASONIC TEMPLE, DENVER, 1890.

c Denver-Bldgs Masonic Temple
1305
W.P.A.