

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 14 1985  
date entered SEP 12 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Masonic Temple

and or common Masonic Temple

2. Location

street & number 330 East College Avenue not for publication

city, town Appleton vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Outagamie code 087

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N.A.	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Outagamie County Historical Society, Inc.

street & number 320 North Durkee Street

city, town Appleton vicinity of state WI 54911

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Outagamie County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number 410 South Walnut Street

city, town Appleton state WI 54911

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state WI 53706

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

The Appleton Masonic Temple, 330 E. College Ave., is situated on a lot 139 x 151 feet at the northwest corner of College Avenue and Drew Street.<sup>1</sup> The building, at the east end of Appleton's main thoroughfare and business street is diagonally across from the Lawrence University campus. All Saints Episcopal Church is to the east and Lawrence University's Brokaw Hall is to the south. Built in 1924, the Masonic Temple is the first and only building built by a masonic order in Appleton. The site of the temple was in the original village of Appleton and adjoining the village of Lawesburg, the nucleus of the early settlement of Appleton. After looking at various examples, Waverly Lodge 51 "adopted the Norman (style) architectural design as most nearly pointing to traditional masonry. It was deemed the most logical style of architecture for a masonic temple."<sup>2</sup>

The idea of medieval influence was a reminder of their historic fraternal brothers whose independent actions, Masons believe, freed them from suppressive church and feudal control, and whose philosophies influenced modern Freemasonry. The architectural firm was Leenhouts and Guthrie of Milwaukee. Cornelius Leenhouts was the actual designer.<sup>3</sup> The building has four stories, including basement, one wing-like portion faces south to College Avenue, the other main body extends toward the east (Drew Street). A tower extends past the roof line, containing the central main entrance and the main staircase.

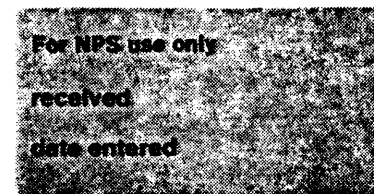
The polygonal tower is at the juncture of the main body of the building and the wing portion which extends from the northwest corner of the lot to the southwest corner. Crenelated parapets extend beyond the gable roof at the east wall as well as the west wall. Non-functional "buttresses" are incorporated into the building design, as well as a stone water table and a supported bay-like area at the second and third floor levels on the main body east facade. This "bay" includes small windows, tall, narrow, shallow decorative niches (reminders of medieval long-bows at the battlements?), a recessed cross configuration and near the top of this area the sun symbol may be seen. The east end of the main body structure also includes a number of window sizes and shapes. The first floor contains many casement windows with Norman-type arches, diamond shaped panes and simple wood tracery. Very small rectangular windows appear at landings of the main staircase with larger rectangular windows in various other areas.

Some reference to Norman architecture may be seen in the adaptations of several features by the architect. The tower became a distinguishing feature, as the Normans expanded the dimensions of their structures after the conquest of northern France. Size and massiveness, notable characteristics of the Norman style, is implied by the exterior design. Semi-circular arched heads of windows and the front door reflect Norman influence<sup>4</sup>

"The construction is of random coursed rubble stone with raked joints and dressed Bedford limestone trimmings. The first story and stair halls will be fireproofed by means of U. S. Gypsum dome and concrete beam construction, the second and third stories of joist construction supported on steel girders and beams. The building will be deadened in the most approved manner possible by eliminating wood or metal contact of the various floors by means of padded chairs supporting studding plates and nailing strips for floors. The floors in lodge rooms and accessory rooms will be pine, the social room of maple, the balance will be of terrazzo except floors in kitchen, boiler, fan and storage rooms, which will be of cement, and the social rooms, which will be pine covered with mastic

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floor covering. The heating and ventilating system provides air intakes for each floor separately with independent vent stacks run to attic and exhausted through fan in tower with operating bypass directed when fan is not running. The roof will be covered with Spanish red tile which will form a pleasing contrast to the grey stone."<sup>5</sup> The main stair hall is entered through oak doors at the base of the tower. Stairs lead to a spacious reception room with a carved stone fireplace, flanked by windows. Described as a Dutch style,<sup>6</sup> the floor is of colored quarry tile, with ceiling beams and supports of white oak. The plastering is "palm work," which gives the effect of plastering over stones resulting in a slightly wavy effect. Opening to the left off this reception area is a large "club" room with windows on three sides. Original plans called for a dividing wall separating a ladies' parlor and men's smoking room.<sup>7</sup> A social hall is at the right, entered through the lobby, and past a check room. A stage is at the east end of the hall. The west end of the social hall opens to the grand stairs (double, curved) which lead to the banquet hall below. The main tower stairs also lead down to a basement or ground floor reception hall with a large (billiard) club room to the left and a banquet hall to the right. The second story contains the main lodge room with high ceiling, with oak beams, ornate wood tracery pipe organ screen, and a painting of a desert camel caravan over the dais at the east end. A small lodge room in the south wing, called the Egyptian Room, is highly decorated in a 1920s style using Egyptian motifs such as stuccoed, long-stemmed lotus blossoms in green and red tones. This motif is found on the walls and is repeated in the design in the upper portion of the windows. The lower windows contain a similar flame motif. Relief designs over the doors appear to be sun and rays, with vivid painted coloring. The doors are decorated with simple carved lotus designs and the pilaster caps are decorated, as are the walls behind the dais and the plastered ceiling beams. The wall fixtures are a double candle style with decorated glass shades, a bronze Egyptian head in the center of each fixture, and lotus motif at the top. One of the doors in this room leads to the tiler's (watchman) room, complete with peep hole. The mezzanine or third story consists of the upper part of the lodge room, as well as a card and billiard rooms. The card room fireplace is faced with brick and stone, with a copper hood. The second floor fireplace is of plaster and stone with an oak beam mantle. The basement fireplace has brick facing. Ancient and medieval symbols are frequently used as decorative parts of the interior and exterior, on door knobs, and plates, on chandeliers, on windows, on walls, and exteriors, particularly the front door area.<sup>8</sup>

The execution of the actual building had only a few minor changes from plans such as elimination of dividing walls in the first floor south club room, and in several of the accessory hall and storage areas. The integrity of the design and the structure in both the interior and exterior of the building is excellent.

1. "The Building of the Temple," The Appleton Press, Appleton, WI., 1923, Outagamie County Historical Society file
2. Ibid.
3. Leenhouts, Willis, AIA (son of Cornelius Leenhouts), conversation, November 6, 1985
4. DePuy, W. H., A. M., D. D., "Norman Architecture," People's Cyclopedia of Universal Knowledge, Vol. II, People's Publishing Co., Chicago, IL., 1883, OCHS library
5. "The Building of the Temple," op. cit.
6. Leenhouts, Willis, AIA, conversation, October 29, 1984, Milwaukee, WI.
7. Leenhouts & Guthrie, Architects, Appleton Masonic Temple Blueprints, 1923, OCHS file
8. Ragghiautio, Carlo Ludovico, Editorial Director, "Egyptian Museum Cairo," Newsweek Inc., New York, NY, 1972, Appleton Public Library

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	x architecture	education	military	X social
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
1800-1899	commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater
1900-	communications	industry	politics government	transportation
X 1924-1935		invention		other (specify)

**Specific dates** Dedication: Nov. 29, <sup>17</sup> 1924, **Builder Architect** Leenhouts & Guthrie, Milwaukee, WI <sup>16</sup>

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Appleton Masonic Temple is historically significant for its connection to the local Waverly Lodge of Freemasons, representing the prominent role played by the Masonic order in Appleton during its peak years of membership and organizational growth in the 1920s and 1930s. Major philanthropic benefactors in the community, the Masons had been a force in local social and benevolent enterprises since 1854.

The Masonic Temple is architecturally significant because its 1920s eclectic medieval design symbolizes Freemasonry's heritage. It is the only Masonic Temple ever built in Appleton and is a dramatic example of 20th century Norman Revival design, the work of prominent Milwaukee architect C. Leenhouts.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Appleton Masonic Temple, built in 1923-24,<sup>3</sup> provided a building suitable for the increased fraternal membership, which reached about 1,000 in the 1920-30 decades,<sup>4</sup> with facilities not only for lodge meetings, but also for community related social and benevolent purposes. The construction of a prominent building reflected the vigor and importance of the local masonic organizations. Steady organizational growth since the chartering of Waverly Lodge 51 in 1854 led to the desire for a building of their own, which could provide facilities for meetings, charitable and fundraising projects and other social events.

The City of Appleton has never had a civic center or community hall. In fact, the only civic buildings constructed were the 1899 public library-city hall (now demolished) and the 1981 public library.<sup>5</sup> The Lawrence University Chapel (1919) has served as a cultural town hall and concert hall for the community. The entire Masonic organizational structure encompasses a number of charities, particularly in the areas of medical assistance to those without financial resources. Clinics were held at the Masonic Temple for screening and evaluation purposes.<sup>6</sup> Royal Arch Masons raise funds for research assistance in the field of learning disabilities. The Knights Templar Foundation, Inc. gives aid to the hearing disabled, the blind and has a general benevolence division. The Scottish Rite Order donates to research and treatment of schizophrenia.<sup>7</sup> Many events held annually to raise funds included breakfasts, suppers, Major Bowes Amateur Hour competitions, and Minstrel Shows.<sup>8</sup> Use of the Masonic Temple by community groups was on-going until the early 1980s. Rental fees were used for maintenance of the building. Religious congregations without facilities for various reasons who held services for extended periods at the Masonic Temple included Episcopal, Greek Orthodox, and Jewish groups.<sup>9</sup> The social halls were scenes of proms, American Association of University Women's Annual Book Sale, the Fox Valley Symphony League Annual Antique Show, and the Appleton Memorial Hospital Guild Annual Holiday Bazaar. Thousands of people each year participated in events at the Temple. By the 1960s membership was rapidly declining, a trend found in many older fraternal organizations. Appleton in the 1970s and early 1980s appears to show a growth in service-related organizations for men and women and a marked decline in the traditional, ritualistic, fraternal lodges, such as the Masonic orders.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Novy, Rosemary, "Waverly Lodge Linked with Appleton's Pioneer History", Appleton Post Crescent Oct. 19, 1954.  
 \_\_\_\_\_, "The Building of the Temple", Masonic Temple booklet, Appleton Press, Appleton, 1923.

continued

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Appleton-Wisc.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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3	8	8	1	4	5
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 Zone Easting Northing

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** (Lot 10 & East 1/2 of lot 9, Block 30, Appleton Plat.)  
 The Appleton Masonic Temple building is bounded on the south by East Collge Avenue, on the west by a commercial building (326 E. Collge av.), on the north by a city alley, and on the east by N. Drew st. as outlined on the attached map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Everist Mergy, Curator of Educational Services, Outagamie County Historical Society

organization Outagamie County Historical Society Inc. date May 8, 1985

street & number 320 N. Durkee St., Appleton, Wi 54911 telephone 414-731-8445

city or town Appleton, Wisconsin state Wisconsin

# 12. 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.

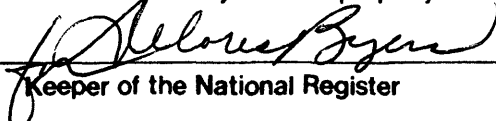
State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title DIRECTOR OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION date July 19, 1985

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

  
 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
 National Register

date

9/12/85

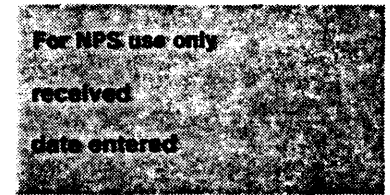
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Historical Background

The Masonic Temple, 330 East College Avenue, Appleton, was the home of Waverly Lodge 51, who owned and maintained the building until 1985. The lodge was chartered June 14, 1854,<sup>10</sup> three years before Appleton incorporated as a city, seven years after Lawrence University was chartered and three years after the formation of Outagamie County. Masonic orders feel their members fulfilled a vital role in the frontier days of the United States: wherever a new area opened up, there would be a few Masons to lead in keeping law and order. The 1854 charter was nine years after the formation of the Wisconsin Grand Lodge and 137 years after the Grand Lodge in England was formed in 1717, from which date modern Masonry in the United States is historically traced.<sup>11</sup> Members of the lodge have been important members of the community. Early members include Amos Story, the city's first mayor; P. H. Smith, first county judge and also a state senator and an assemblyman; Henry Eggleston, Appleton's second postmaster; Anson Ballard, the first city attorney; and Theodore Conkey, a state senator who was instrumental in the formation of Outagamie County. The name Waverly may have been chosen because of the popularity of Sir Walter Scott's novels (Scott was a Freemason). The twelve original members had grown to 73 by 1864. By then, in the same community, the name "Waverly" was given to a popular beach resort on Lake Winnebago, a cigar and a hotel.<sup>12</sup> In 1924, when the temple was built, the Worshipful Master was G. E. Buchanan, a prominent businessman whose wire works were (and are) an important part of the paper industry. Dr. Victor Marshall, known for his fundraising efforts and contributions, is remembered with a plaque on the door of the Egyptian lodge room. Local membership reached its peak around 1920-30 when there were about 1,000 members.

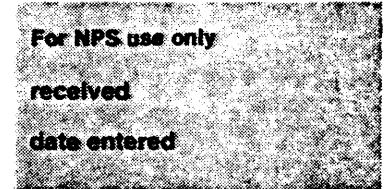
Fraternal and secret societies

Background of some early organizations in Appleton.

The oldest fraternal organization in Appleton was Konemic Lodge 163, of Odd Fellows, founded in 1850. In 1881 there were 200 members, in 1864 members built their own lodge hall. Konemic Lodge erected a large building in 1886 where the upper floors were used by the Odd Fellows and the ground floor housed the Fair Dry Goods Co. This was the largest lodge of the time. Waverly Lodge 51 (Masonic) was chartered in 1854, with 90 members in 1881. Royal Arch Masons were prosperous at that time also, as well as many other societies. Another lodge of Odd Fellows (Rhine Lodge for Germans), two Jewish organizations, Good Templars (temperance), Temple of Honor, Sons of Hermann (fraternal and insurance), United Workingmen, Royal Arcanum, Knights of Honor and the German Odd Fellows all had a system of family life insurance. Some animosity toward such groups was apparently prevalent in early periods of American settlement, but from the beginning of the Appleton-Lawesburg-Grand Chute settlements (early 1850 era) fraternal and benevolent societies were well accepted and became a part of the community's civic and social life.<sup>13</sup>

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Architectural Significance, within context of other buildings in the community

Distinguished, solid and impressive, the Masonic Temple in Appleton is the only example in Appleton of the particular eclectic, medieval Norman design. The central tower housing the front entrance and stairs is a centralizing feature and seems, with its diagonal facing on its lot, to have a unifying effect in relation with the neighborhood to the south and east. Only two other fraternal groups (Odd Fellows and Elks) presently own buildings, both recently built. Earlier fraternal buildings have been torn down or drastically altered. All Saints Episcopal Church to the east is built of stone somewhat similar in appearance; however, the style is English country, built originally about 1920, and rebuilt almost identically in 1950 after a fire. The First Methodist Church one block north on Drew and Franklin was built in 1925, of random coursed brown-tan stone, in Gothic style. Other local buildings of the general period in commercial use are: Brettschneider Furniture building, 111 West College Ave., 1922, built in the 1910-20 Chicago style; the Gibson Garage, 211 West College Ave., 1931, with an art deco facade; the Zuelke building, 103 West College Ave., 1932, a "skyscraper," originally five stories and increased later to twelve stories, featuring an exterior of "modernistic" design with an interior which is Gothic in character.<sup>14</sup>

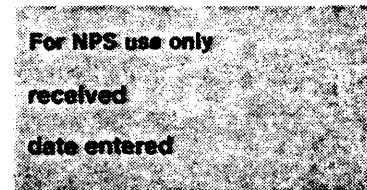
Architectural Significance, Architect:

The architect of the Appleton Masonic Temple was Cornelius Leenhouts (1864-1934) whose firm, Leenhouts and Guthrie, maintained offices in Milwaukee the first third of this century. He was a member of the AIA (1902), a Mason, and 32d degree member of the Scottish Rite. Leenhouts worked in Chicago under Louis Sullivan on the Transportation Building for the 1893 World's Fair. He then worked for E. T. Mix and Co. for three years on the Mitchell Building, the Chamber of Commerce building and the St. Paul Depot. He practiced in Milwaukee at 102 Wisconsin Street during the period 1900-1912; at 424 North Jefferson Street from 1913-1934 (at the Jefferson Building from 1932-1933).<sup>15</sup>

Leenhouts designed Masonic Temples in a number of communities including Milwaukee, Beloit, Fond du Lac, Whitewater, Menominee Falls and Green Bay, as well as churches, homes, funeral homes, banks, and offices and school buildings. Specific examples are: the Leiland Apartments, 2233 North Prospect Ave., Milwaukee, 1923; the First National Bank, 7430 West State St., Wauwatosa, 1910; the YMCA in Janesville, 1925; the Milwaukee YMCA, 1928; the Luiek Ice Cream Co., 183 Ogden St., Milwaukee, 1906-1908; the Grand Avenue Methodist Church, Milwaukee; Carroll College Dormitory, Waukesha, 1929; the Dutch Reformed Church, Waupun, 1923; the Edward Walch residence, 123 East Avenue South, Waukesha, 1922; the Charles Schultze residence, 1202 East Broadway, Waukesha, 1921; the Herman Reel residence, Racine, 1905; and the Kenwood Masonic Lodge, 2648 North Hackett Avenue, Milwaukee, 1915 (since 1980, the Italian Community Center). Leenhouts designed many residences in Milwaukee as well as religious and commercial buildings, however a number of these buildings have been demolished. There is no evidence to show that other Masonic Temples were designed by Leenhouts in the style of the Appleton Masonic Temple, although it is thought several churches of a similar style were executed by him.<sup>16</sup>

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After looking at various architectural examples, the Appleton Waverly Lodge #51, "adopted the Norman as most nearly pointing to traditional Masonry. It was deemed the most logical style of architecture for a masonic temple."17

1. Skoog, Carl W., P. G. M., Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI., conversation, February 7, 1985
2. Novy, Rosemary, "Waverly Lodge Linked with Appleton's Pioneer History," The Appleton Post-Crescent, October 19, 1954, Outagamie County Historical Society file
3. Ibid.
4. Johnson, Carlton, Master, Appleton Waverly Lodge 51, Appleton, WI., January 28, 1985
5. Peterson, Bernie, "The Old Library--to Raze or not to Raze," Appleton Post-Crescent, December 16, 1980, OCHS file
6. Krabbe, Alvin, Past Master, Appleton Waverly Lodge 51, Appleton, WI., conversation, February 1, 1985
7. Skoog, Carl, P. G. M., Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI., correspondence, February 14, 1985
8. Johnson, Carlton, op. cit.
9. Johnson, Carlton, op. cit.
10. "History of Waverly Lodge #51, F. & A. M., Appleton, Wisconsin" pamphlet, OCHS file
11. Ibid.
12. Novy, Rosemary, op. cit.
13. Mackesy, Lillian, "Mystic Brothers: The Societies of Appleton," The Appleton Post-Crescent, March 1, 1970, OCHS file
14. Historic Buildings - Appleton, OCHS file
15. Architect Biography Card #98, Wisconsin Architectural Archive, Milwaukee Public Library
16. Leenhouts, Willis, AIA, Milwaukee, WI., correspondence, November 7, 1984
17. "The Building of the Temple," The Appleton Press, 1923, Appleton, WI, OCHS file



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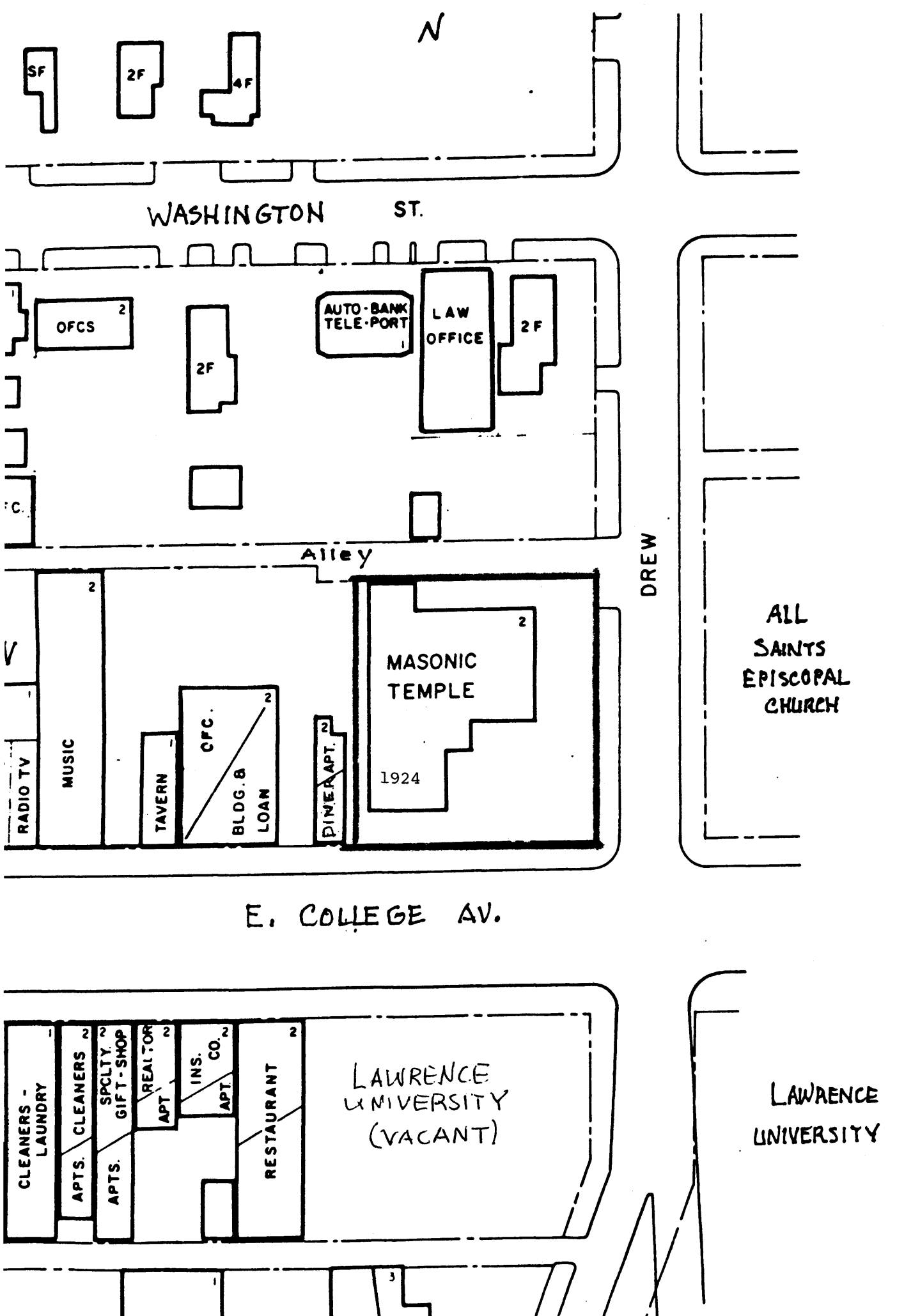
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Bibliography

———, "History of Waverly Lodge #51," Masonic Temple Booklet, E & A.M., Appleton, nd  
(available from OCHS files.)

Conversation - with Willard Leenhouts, son of temple architect Cornelius Leenhouts,  
Milwaukee.

- with Carleton Johnson and Alvin Krabbe, past Masters of Waverly Lodge #51, Appleton.
- with Carl Skoog, Grand Secretary (Milwaukee) of Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. of Wisconsin.



Appleton, Outagamie County, WI

Map not to scale.



APPLETON MASONIC TEMPLE