

LEGISTAR
NO. 210117

Project: 215 N Main St- Masonic Lodge

Application Item #4

Tier 4 Funding Information

National Historic Register

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on how to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking 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 Masonic Temple

other names/site number Masonic Order Lodge #41/AL488

2. Location

street & number 215 North Main Street

N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Gainesville

N/A ☐ vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Alachua code 001 zip code 32601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

Apr. 17, 1998
Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain) _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

5/29/98
Date of Action

MASONIC TEMPLE

Name of Property

ALACHUA, FLORIDA

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)

- ☒ buildings
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing**Noncontributing**

1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

Name of related multiple property listings

(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

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL/Italian Renaissance**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

Concrete

roof Tile

other Metal

Narrative Description

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

MASONIC TEMPLE

Name of Property

ALACHUA, FLORIDA

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 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 36) 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

Period of Significance

1908 - 1948

Significant Dates

1908

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hawkins, J.H.W

Eddins Manufacturing Company

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of Repository

MASONIC TEMPLE

Name of Property

ALACHUA, FLORIDA

County and State

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property LESS THAN ONE ACRE**UTM References**

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	3	7	1	7	6	0	3	2	8	0	9	2	0
Zone	Easting					Northing									
2															

3															
Zone	Easting					Northing									
4															

☐ 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 Byname/title Mark H. Smith, Consultant; Gary V. Goodwin, Historic Preservation Plannerorganization Bureau of Historic Preservation date April, 1998street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (850) 487-2333city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Gainesville Lodge #41 Free and Accepted Masonsstreet & number 215 North Main Street telephone (352) 372-9350city or town Gainesville state Florida zip code 33601**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 amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

**MASONIC TEMPLE
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida**

Summary

The Masonic Temple at 215 North Main Street is a rectangular, 2 story Italian Renaissance style building with a pedimented hip roof with wide overhanging eaves. The building, constructed in 1908, has survived without significant alterations, and most of the ornamental architecture has remained intact. The property is located in the core of downtown Gainesville and has served continually since its construction as the meeting hall of Lodge #41 Free and Accepted Masons.

Setting

The Masonic Temple is located two blocks north of the downtown intersection of University Avenue and Main Street. The Masonic Temple is surrounded on its immediate block by a city owned parking lot to the south, and a two-story, professional office building to the east. The neighboring blocks include a church and retail space to the south, a single story, professional office block to the north and east, and a bank across Main Street to the west. There are some palms and oaks on the site.

Physical Description

Exterior

The main entrance to the building is located in a raised portico on the centerline of the west (main) elevation. The portico has twelve Tuscan pre-cast concrete columns with a pre-cast concrete cornice and a decorative balustrade (Photo #1). Above the portico, on the second floor, there are three round arch windows with keystone consoles flanked by four Ionic columns (Photo #2). The balustrade has decorative openwork masonry (Photo #3). The building has a very bold cornice decorated with dentils which continues around the building above the second story fenestration (Photo #4). The hipped roof is covered with clay tile. Another architectural feature is a decorative capped chimney on the east side. There is a gabled pediment with a projecting cornice on the west side above the portico. Just below the peak of the pediment there is a decorative medallion indicating the date of construction (Photo #5). The first story of the main elevation features six flat arch windows, concrete steps and a wood double door with two sunburst transoms. With the exception of the east (rear) elevation, the second story fenestration is vertically arranged with the first story and features double-hung, one over one, arched windows with decorative keystone (Photo #6). Carved stone trim is used extensively around the exterior window surrounds. The decorative keystone at the top center of the arched windows is emblematic of the Royal Arch of Masonry. Except for the addition of a steel, emergency stairway on the south portion of the east elevation (Photo #7), the exterior remains unaltered from the original form since the cornerstone was positioned (Photo #8).

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**MASONIC TEMPLE
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida**

Interior

The building features rooms of generous proportions. The first floor includes the entry foyer, a large meeting hall with wood support beams (Photo #9), a kitchen, library and a storage room. The interior has decorative pressed metal ceilings (Photo #10), the original heart pine flooring, doors and trim throughout the building. The main entrance features wide pine molding around the door frame and large wood doors with sunburst design transoms and original hardware (Photo #11). The second floor is devoted to the formal ceremonial meeting hall with a small preparation room across the hall. The building also contains many original pieces of symbolic furniture. The large meeting hall contains numerous decorative references to the primary themes of Masonry, including the seating areas and the ceremonial altar (Photos #12 - 13). The flooring in the main meeting hall on the second floor has been covered with carpet and tile (Photo #14). The second floor has high arched doorways along with original wood doors that feature brass hardware and Masonic symbolism in their design (Photo #15). The area below the first floor consists of storage space for mechanical equipment.

Alterations

The building has a few modest alterations, yet the original finishes, features, and windows remain intact. Minor changes involve the installation of a mechanical lift on the stairway (Photo #16), and the addition of tile and carpeting over the original hardwood floors in the second floor meeting room. Other interior modifications include: remodeling of the kitchen and the installation of an air conditioning and heating system which replaced the original coal burning furnace.

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**MASONIC TEMPLE
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida**

PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY

1. Masonic Temple, 215 North Main Street
2. Alachua County, Florida
3. Mark Herbert Smith
4. February, 1996
5. 725 NE 3rd Street, Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida
6. West (main) and north elevations, camera facing southeast
7. Photo #1 of 16

Items 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs:

6. Detail: second story, pediment, camera facing east
7. Photo #2 of 16
6. Detail: second story, triple arched window openings, camera facing east
7. Photo #3 of 16
6. West and south elevations, camera facing northeast
7. Photo #4 of 16
6. Detail: west elevation, dentils, medallion, and pediment, camera facing east
7. Photo #5 of 16
6. South elevation, first and second story window alignment, camera facing north
7. Photo #6 of 16
6. East elevation, emergency stairway, capped chimney, camera facing west
7. Photo #7 of 16
6. Detail: cornerstone, camera facing east
7. Photo #8 of 16
6. Interior: first floor meeting/social hall, camera facing southwest
7. Photo #9 of 16

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**MASONIC TEMPLE
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida**

-
- 6. Detail: first floor pressed metal ceiling, support beam
 - 7. Photo #10 of 16

Items 1 - 2 are the same:

- 3. Gary V. Goodwin
 - 4. September, 1997
 - 5. Bureau of Historic Preservation, Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida
 - 6. Detail: main entrance, original wood double doors, sunburst transom, camera facing west
 - 7. Photo #11 of 16
-
- 3. Mark Herbert Smith
 - 4. February, 1996
 - 5. 725 NE 3rd Street, Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida
 - 6. Second floor formal meeting hall, camera facing northeast
 - 7. Photo #12 of 16
-
- 6. Second floor formal meeting hall, high arched doorway, pressed metal ceiling, camera facing north
 - 7. Photo #13 of 16
-
- 6. Second floor formal meeting hall, ceremonial furniture, carpet and tile flooring, camera facing southeast
 - 7. Photo #14 of 16
-
- 3. Gary V. Goodwin
 - 4. September, 1997
 - 5. Bureau of Historic Preservation, Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida
 - 6. Detail: second floor hall, original arched wood frame doorway with keystone, wood flooring
 - 7. Photo #15 of 16
-
- 6. Detail: original wood stairway with added mechanical lift
 - 7. Photo #16 of 16

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**MASONIC TEMPLE
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida**

Summary

The Masonic Temple is locally significant under Criterion C as a fine example of Italian Renaissance Style architecture in Gainesville. The Temple is one of Gainesville's significant and prominent landmarks. The building has retained its architectural integrity to a high degree. The building is an excellent example of the ornate form of architecture used on public and civic buildings in the early 20th century. The membership of Lodge #41 has included some of the city's early leading politicians, businessmen, and developers whose efforts have been important in shaping the city. On September 9, 1908, in a grand ceremony, the cornerstone was placed.

Historic Context

During the territorial period, St. Augustine, Pensacola, Apalachicola, Tallahassee, and Key West were the principal towns in Florida (1821- 1844); other sections were either rural with a few scattered settlements or almost totally undeveloped. The greatest concentration of rural population extended across the northern portions of the territory, and cotton and naval stores were the chief commercial enterprises. Also the population tended to follow rivers inland and congregate about good harbors on the West Gulf and Upper Atlantic coasts. The remote peninsular areas were largely unexplored and dotted with a few Indian trading posts, sugar plantations and military posts.

The population of the state in 1857 is estimated to have been about 87,000, with forty-five percent of the people being either Indians or African slaves. Alachua County, ninth in order of organization, originally embraced the area from the Georgia state line on the north to Charlotte Harbor, and from the St. Johns River at Palatka to the Suwannee River on the west. It was a remote area.

The City of Gainesville was founded in 1854 when the Board of Commissioners of Alachua County decided to move the county seat from Newnansville to the right-of-way of the Florida Railroad. The railroad company was in the process of constructing the state's first major rail link between the east and west coasts, starting at the city of Fernandina on the Atlantic Ocean and terminating at Cedar Key on the Gulf of Mexico. Since there was a potential for local market centers to develop along the railway, the Florida Railroad Company decided to establish five depots along the route to accommodate the shipment of local agricultural products and to encourage new settlements that would be beneficial to the railroad. The depot site selected in Alachua County became the city of Gainesville.

The new settlement was named in honor of General Edmund P. Gaines, who had served in the War of 1812 and later commanded forces during the Seminole Wars in Florida. The new town site was roughly square and contained 103 acres. The interaction of the rail line and the original town plat provided a framework for the

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**MASONIC TEMPLE
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida**

future expansion of the community. The central business district of retail stores, offices, and hotels grew up around the courthouse square, with the first residences located nearby. To the south of the square, manufacturing concerns and warehouses took advantage of lots established for them along the railroad.

The Florida Railroad was completed in 1859, but Gainesville scarcely had time to enjoy the economic benefits brought by the new transportation route before the outbreak of the Civil War brought further development of the city to an end. The community did not experience its first real economic boom until the 1880s. Gainesville was only a village of 269 residents in 1860, but by 1890 the permanent population had grown to nearly 3,000 persons. Expansion of the city continued into the first decade of the 20th century, stimulated by the railroad which supported the shipment of local agricultural products, particularly cotton. Phosphate, timber, and naval stores also formed the basis for the local economy, as did the production of bricks and ironware.

The commercial center of Gainesville during the 1880s consisted largely of wooden buildings that had grown up around the courthouse square. These were subject to fires, and by the end of the century had been largely replaced by brick structures. The dilapidated old wooden warehouses along the railroad were also replaced by masonry structures. By the beginning of the second decade of the 20th century, Gainesville began to lose its importance as a regional shipping center. The growth of cotton waned in the area, and further expansion of Florida's rail network prompted the establishment of competing commercial centers in other parts of the state. The further expansion of Gainesville was assisted, in spite of this fact, by the establishment of the University of Florida, whose continued growth over the succeeding decades became the keystone of the local economy.

Masonry in Florida

Florida was created as a Territory, in 1821. It was only a few years after Florida became a territory of the United States that the first enduring Florida Lodge was established at Tallahassee. This was Jackson Lodge, organized under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Alabama, June 3, 1825 and chartered as Jackson Lodge #23 on December 19, 1825. It was named after Andrew Jackson, Florida's first Territorial governor who later served as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, and President of the United States.

Historic Significance

In 1857, twelve years after Florida became a state and three after the founding of Gainesville, a group of 18 Gainesville Masons obtained a charter from the Grand Lodge of Florida and became Gainesville Lodge #41.

The Masons of Lodge #41 have always been at the center of fraternal life and have played a significant role in the development of the city of Gainesville. The Masonic Temple has served continually since its construction as the meeting hall of Lodge #41 Free and Accepted Masons. Lodge #41 was chartered on January 15, 1857 by the

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MASONIC TEMPLE
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida

Grand Lodge of Tallahassee. The original 18 Masons met in a variety of buildings, including a frame structure on the corner of SE 2nd Avenue and SE 1st Street from 1869 to 1888. Lodge #41 then leased the third floor of H.F. Dutton's bank and stayed at that location until May 12, 1893, when the bank burned down. The site for a new permanent building on Main Street between NE 2nd and 3rd Avenues was purchased in 1903 from the Episcopal Church. In 1908, at the start of construction of the Masonic Temple, the membership of Lodge #41 totaled 88 members. The ceremonies of laying the cornerstone were held during the afternoon of Wednesday, September 9, 1908. Newspaper reports of *The Gainesville Sun* and the *Gainesville Elevator* for that time gave a very vivid description of the scheduled events and the formation of the parade held on that occasion. The membership of Lodge #41 reached a pinnacle of 359 men in 1928. Presently the members number slightly over 200.

Lodge #41 derives significance from the continued association with a number of active and influential community leaders who played important roles in the social, economic and political development of the city of Gainesville. Members of the lodge have in past years held numerous positions with the city, county, and state government. Notable among them are: Former United States Senator David L. Yulee; W. A. Shands, past President of the Florida Senate; former mayor and Gainesville native, William Ruben Thomas, and Dr. Albert A. Murphree, University of Florida President from 1909 to 1927. Lodge #41 also has had members who have distinguished themselves in Masonry to the extent that they were elected to the head of the Grand Body which they served. The lodge has produced three Grand Masters, three Grand High Priests, one Grand Eminent Commander, and two Grand Worthy Patrons.

Architectural Context

The Italian Renaissance style, directly inspired by the great Renaissance houses of Italy, was one of the most popular of the Beaux Arts design modes, lasting from the late 1800s until the 1920s. While the Victorian Italianate was essentially a loose interpretation of Italian architecture, drawn primarily from pattern books, the Italian Renaissance style took a much more academic approach, with design features often copied directly from actual Renaissance landmarks.

Primarily a style for architect-designed landmarks in major metropolitan areas prior to World War I, the Italian Renaissance style is found in early 20th century buildings throughout the country. Italian Renaissance was used as a domestic style in the 1880s and 1890s, but gained its widest use after masonry veneering techniques were perfected after World War I. Identifying features of this style include: a low-pitched hipped roof typically covered by ceramic tiles; widely overhanging eaves; arches above windows; symmetrical facade, recessed entry porches and classical door surrounds accented by small classical columns or pilasters. Typical roof-wall junctions are usually boxed. High style elaboration features arched openings, arcaded or colonnaded entries and second-story porches, usually recessed, and a prominent dentiled cornice.

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**MASONIC TEMPLE
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida**

Architectural Significance

The Masonic Temple Lodge #41 with its symmetrical facades, raised, columned portico entry, arched windows, and decorative cornice, is significant architecturally as a fine example of Italian Renaissance architecture. The building is significant for its distinctive styling, excellent craftsmanship, and impressive size. The Temple was constructed by the Edding Manufacturing Company of sand brick masonry laid in a stretcher bond and pre-cast concrete made by the W. T. Hughes Company of Tampa. Detailing is of cast concrete, manufactured in nearby Campville by the Edding Manufacturing Company. The building was designed by architect J.H.W. Hawkins of Jacksonville, Florida. The building retains all the significant design qualities as when it was first constructed with no major alterations to the exterior and limited alterations to the interior. The Masonic Temple is one of two buildings in the city of Gainesville, that exemplify this distinctive architectural design and construction. The other building is the old post office, now the Hippodrome State Theater (NR 1979) also constructed in 1908-1909.

The fine craftsmanship of the building is especially evident on the exterior in its main entrance and west elevation. The interior is distinguished by carefully detailed woodwork, high arched doorways, and pressed metal ceilings. The Masonic Temple incorporates many of the standard features which are typical of the Italian Renaissance architectural style. The most notable features of the building are the Tuscan columns supporting the portico, the round arch windows with keystone consoles, and the bold cornice decorated with dentils. These features make the Masonic Temple one of the most distinctive buildings in Gainesville.

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MASONIC TEMPLE
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Craig, Myrtice, Historic Gainesville Inc., Research Committee Report.

Davis, Jess G. History of Gainesville, Florida. Gainesville, Florida: Alachua County Historical Society, 1966.

Freemasons. The First Century of Gainesville Lodge #41. Gainesville, Florida: Wayside Press, 1957.

Gainesville Sun. "Masons Will have A fine New Home." March 28, 1907.

_____. "Laying of Corner Stone was an Important Event." September 19, 1908.

_____. "100 Year Anniversary of Gainesville Masons." January 15, 1957.

Hildreth, Charles H. and Merlin G. Cox. History of Gainesville Florida: 1854-1979. Gainesville, Florida: Alachua County Historical Society, 1981.

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Section number 10 Page 1

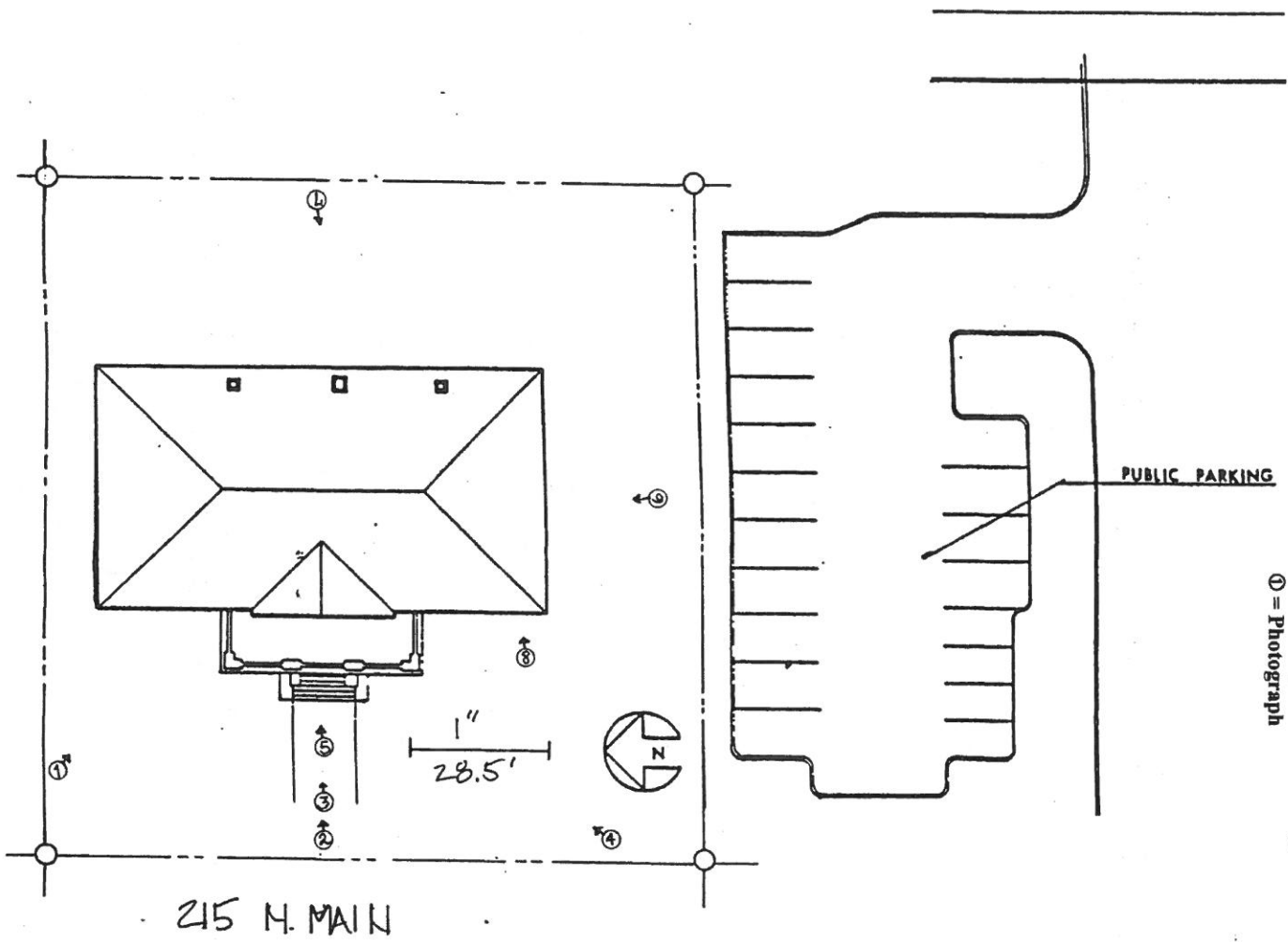
MASONIC TEMPLE
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida

Verbal boundary description:

North 2/3 of West 1/2 of Block 3, Range 6 which is bound by N. Main Street to the west, NE 2nd Avenue to the south, NE 3rd Avenue to the north and by NE 1st Street to the east.

Verbal boundary justification:

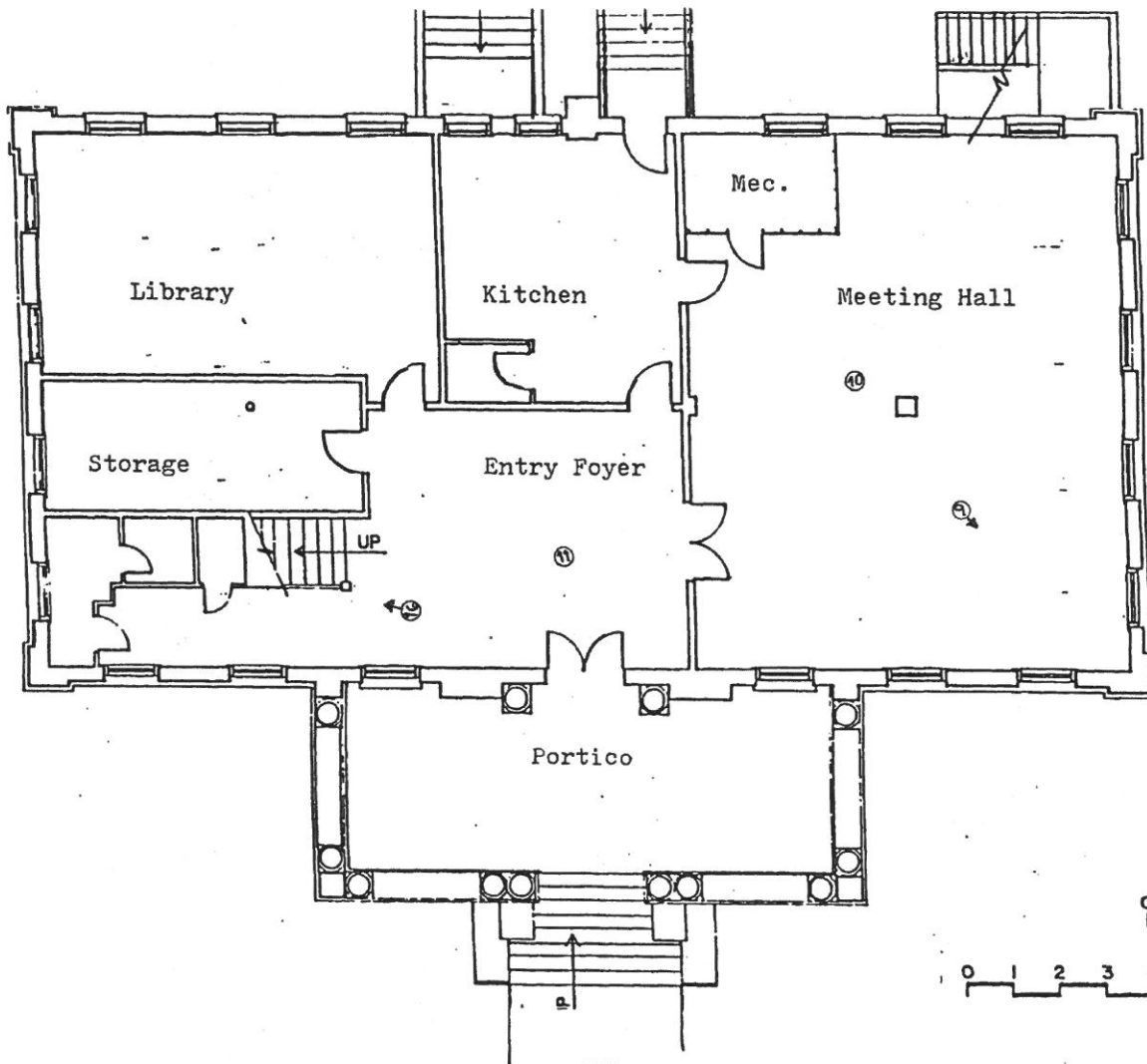
The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Masonic Temple.



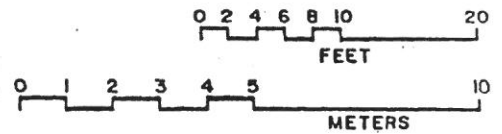
MASONIC TEMPLE
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida
① = Photograph

Drawn by Donald Kino 1987

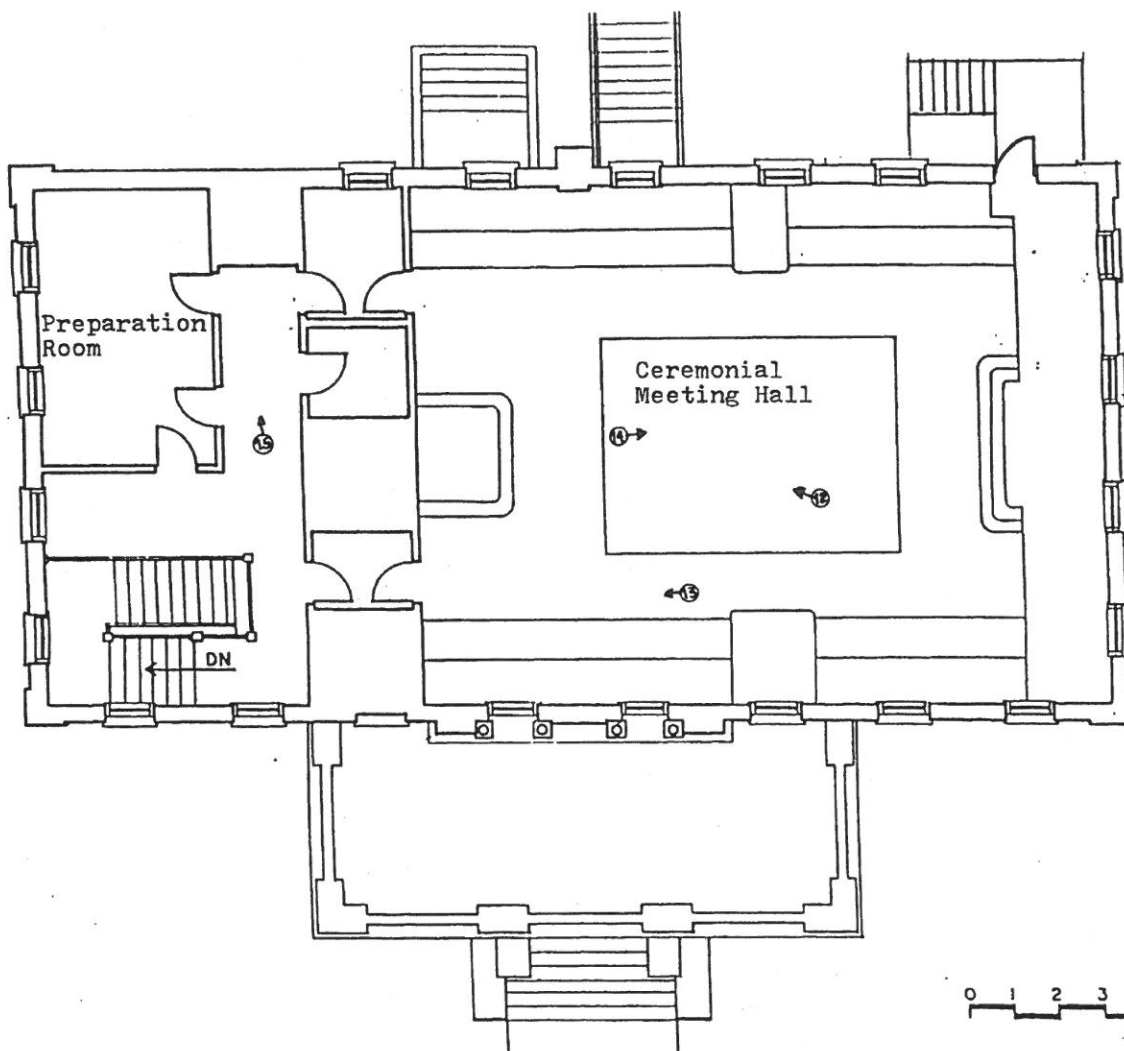
MASONIC TEMPLE
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida
① = Photograph



1st Floor



Drawn by Donald Kino 1987



MASONIC TEMPLE
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida
⊙ = Photograph



0 2 4 6 8 10 20
FEET

0 1 2 3 4 5 10
METERS

2nd Floor

Drawn by Donald Kino 1987

