



ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY FORM

1. Survey No. ADAS002-0011		2. Survey name: Kirksville Historic Properties Survey	
3. County: Adair		4. Address: 217 E. Harrison	
5. City: Kirksville	Vicinity: <input type="checkbox"/>	6. UTM: 15/535643/4449579	7. Township/Range/Section: T: 62 R: 15 S: 09
8. Historic name (if known): Masonic Temple		9. Present/other name (if known):	
10. Ownership: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Public		11. Historic use (if known): Social - Meeting Hall	11. Current use: Social - Meeting Hall

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

12. Category of property: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> object	19. Chimney placement: Exterior	26. Changes (describe in box 28 cont.): <input type="checkbox"/> Addition(s) Date(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Altered Date(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Moved Date(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Other Date(s): Endangered by:
13. Architectural style or vernacular type: Egyptian Revival	20. Structural system: Stone and Brick	
14. Plan shape: Rectangular	21. Ext. wall cladding: Stone and Brick	
15. No. of stories: 4	22. Foundation material: Concrete	
16. No. of bays (1 st floor): 5	23. Basement type: Partial	27. Outbuildings (describe in box 27 cont.): None
17. Roof type: Flat	24. Front porch type: Platform	28. Further description of building features and associated resources on continuation page. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18. Roof material: Neoprene	25. Acreage (rural): Visible from public road? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

HISTORICAL DATA

29. Construction date: 1930	32. Architect: Bonsack and Pearce	35. Previously surveyed? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey name: Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission - 1986
30. Significant date/period: 1930	33. Builder/contractor: Leonard F. Poehlman	36. On National Register? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> indiv. <input type="checkbox"/> district Nomination: Masonic Temple
31. Area(s) of significance:	34. Original or significant owner: Kirksville Masonic Temple Association	37. National Register eligible? <input type="checkbox"/> individually eligible <input type="checkbox"/> district potential
38. History and significance on continuation page. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		39. Sources of information on continuation page. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

OTHER

40. Current owner/address: Kirksville Masonic Temple Association 217 East Harrison Street Kirksville, MO 63501	41. Form prepared by (name and org.): Brad Selby Kirksville Historic Preservation Comm. City of Kirksville	42. Survey date: March, 2010
		43. Date of revisions:

FOR SHPO USE:

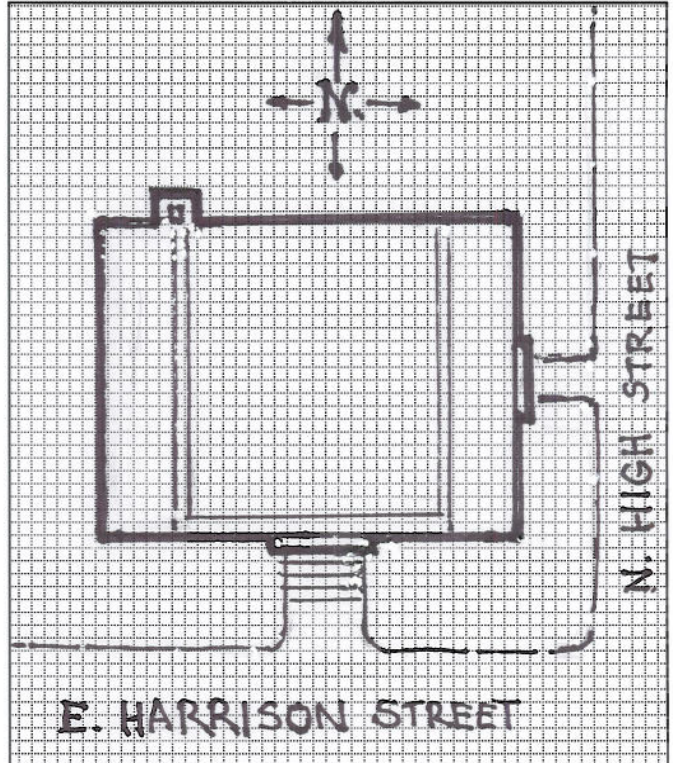
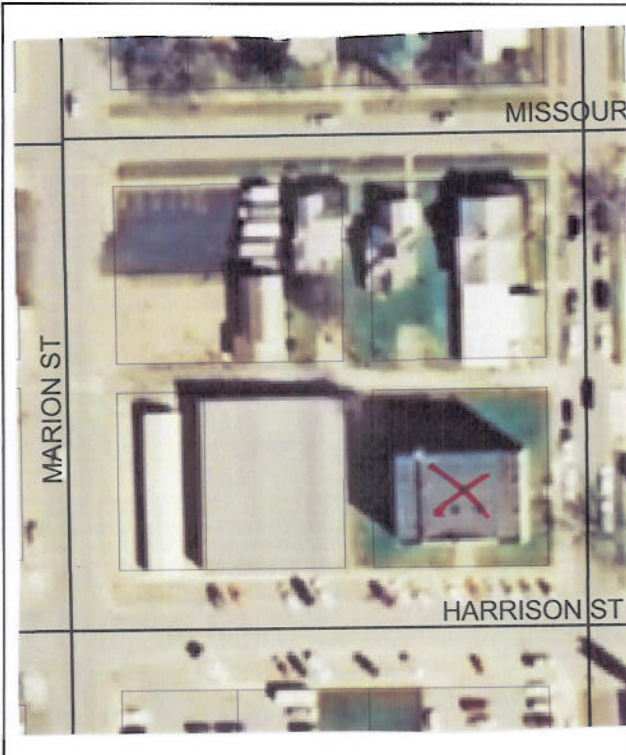
Date entered in inventory:	Level of survey <input type="checkbox"/> reconnaissance <input type="checkbox"/> intensive	Additional research needed? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
National Register Status: <input type="checkbox"/> listed <input type="checkbox"/> in listed district Name: <input type="checkbox"/> pending listing <input type="checkbox"/> eligible (individually) <input type="checkbox"/> eligible (district) <input type="checkbox"/> not eligible <input type="checkbox"/> not determined	Other:	



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Location Map (include north arrow):

Site Map/plan (include north arrow):



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

27. (cont.) Description of environment and outbuildings. Expand box as necessary, or add continuation pages.

There are no outbuildings on the property.

28. (cont.) Further description of important architectural features. Expand box as necessary, or add continuation pages.

Designed by the St. Louis practice of Bonsack & Pearce and erected in 1930, the Masonic Temple in Kirksville, Adair County, Missouri is an excellent local example of Egyptian Revival architecture. This rectangular, four-story structure at 217 East Harrison Street was built to accommodate various Masonic lodges, chapters, and allied organizations. The temple stands on the northwest corner of East Harrison and North High Streets immediately east of the Courthouse Square, the city's historic commercial district. Measuring approximately 55 feet by 77 feet, the building is divided vertically into five bays on its south and north elevations and four bays on its east and west fronts. The Temple's two primary facades (the south or Harrison Street facade and the east or High Street facade) are faced with limestone, emphasize a symmetrical, linear composition and display several decorative forms characteristic of the Egyptian Revival and Art Deco styles of the early-twentieth century. These two facades feature central entrances set in pylons with cavetto moldings. Masonic symbols are placed in the exterior door hardware, over the main entrance and funeral door and in the pediment at the attic level. Engaged Nilotic columns with papyrus capitals on the Harrison Street facade articulate the location of the third floor lodge room. The secondary facades (north and west) are brick and unadorned. In contrast to the stylized decoration on its primary facades, the building's interior is functional and conservatively decorated with classical detailing. Both the interior and exterior have integrity. Given its style and condition, the Kirksville Masonic Temple is locally significant and is currently on the National Register of Historic Places. The building is in good repair and manifests the structural condition expected of buildings on the National Register. The stone and brick veneers, original fixtures and plasterwork are all intact. Through its site, solid construction, materials, and constant use as a meeting hall since its construction, the Masonic Temple is a powerful symbol of Freemasonry's stability and presence in this rural town.



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38. (cont.) History and significance. Expand box as necessary, or add continuation pages.

The first Masonic Lodge in Adair County was Kirksville Lodge No. 128, A.F. & A.M. which was chartered in May, 1850 and met in a log cabin near the intersection of Dodson and Osteopathy streets. This lodge's charter was pulled during the Civil War and in 1864 it surrendered the charter to become Kirksville Lodge No. 105, A.F. & A.M., and absorbed most of the members from the earlier lodge. A lodge building was completed in 1872 on the west end of the north side of the Kirksville square at a cost of \$15,000. The building was dedicated in 1873. The third floor of this structure was used as a meeting hall until it burned in 1890. A second lodge, Adair Lodge No. 366, A.F. & A.M., was also chartered in 1881. All but one of its original members came from Kirksville Lodge No. 105. The lodge organizations then moved to rented rooms on the south side of the Kirksville square. Then, Kirksville Lodge No. 105 and the Eastern Star organization moved to a new building at 210-220 North Elson street, directly north of the temple that had just burned down. Adair Lodge No. 366, the Caldwell Chapter No. 53 Royal Arch Masonry, and the Ely Commandry No. 22 Knights Templar stayed on the south side of the square, and then in 1910 moved to the 3rd floor of the newly completed Foster building at 116-120 East Washington street. In 1919 a new Masonic Temple Association was formed in Kirksville in the hopes of constructing a building that would be exclusively for the use of Masons. This Association consisted of 3 members of Kirksville Lodge No. 105, 3 from Adair Lodge No. 366, 3 from Caldwell Chapter No. 53 and 3 from Ely Commandry No. 22. They agreed to all move to the lodge hall on North Elson street in order to economize on their use of space, to save money that could be put into the new building fund. Each of the four Masonic bodies created a building fund to hold members' contributions and savings. Around 1919 the Temple Association selected a site for the new temple close to the downtown area. In 1927 the Association asked Bonsack & Pearce in St. Louis to draw up plans for a new building. Planning and raising monies for the new Masonic Temple in Kirksville lasted a total of eleven years. The Temple Association's successful fund raising resulted in the construction of one of the largest, most prominent buildings in Kirksville. The various Masonic groups in Kirksville had raised \$45,000 by 1930 and decided to raise the rest of the monies needed through issuing \$35,000 in bonds. Construction began in early 1930 and was supervised by Leonard F. Poehlman, a local contractor and Mason. The building was finished rapidly and dedicated in December of that same year. Use of the temple has been continuous since that time, with meetings taking place weekly for the various Masonic bodies.

39 (cont.). Sources of information. Expand box as necessary, or add continuation pages.

1. A History of Adair County (Kirksville-Adair County Bicentennial Committee, 1976)
2. Mr. Bruce Hunt, Interview
3. Mr. Zelwin Eaton, Interview
4. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form and documentation by Cole Woodcox