

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 in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Messick Masonic Temple

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 519 South Harrison Street.

City or town: Shelbyville State: IN County: Shelby

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ Title :</p>	<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

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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 the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: Limestone

walls: STONE: Limestone

BRICK

roof: SYNTHETICS: Rubber

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Messick Masonic Temple is a large three-story building with raised basement that occupies the southeast quarter corner of a city block immediately south of the Shelby County Courthouse on Harrison Street in Shelbyville. The building's principal facades are composed of smooth-cut Indiana limestone with a classically-arranged façade and a two-story cella with pilasters along each side and a recessed front balcony with Ionic colonnade. Built in 1925, the building represents the height of Neoclassical design and masonic temple construction.

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Narrative Description

The Messick Masonic Temple was constructed in 1925 on the main north/south corridor through the center of Shelbyville, approximately four blocks south of the town square and one block south of the Shelby County Courthouse Square (seen in the background of photo 02), both located on the west side of Harrison Street. The lodge building occupies two lots, facing Harrison Street, that compose the southeast corner of a city block bounded by Harrison and Elm Streets on the east and west, respectively, and Taylor and South Streets, on the north and south, respectively. An east/west alley divides the block and forms the north boundary to the lodge property. The lodge property is bounded by concrete sidewalks with a narrow lawn between the sidewalk and curb for Harrison and South Streets. A lawn and landscape border is between the sidewalk and building. The north side features an asphalt-paved parking area between the building and alley. A concrete sidewalk extends along the back (west) of the building.

The building is three stories with a raised basement (the meeting hall or lodge room is a two-story space with balcony). The building is constructed out of smooth-cut Indiana limestone. The raised basement forms a base with reverse ogee trim at the top. The base features eight wide 1/1 vinyl windows along the north and south facades for the basement level. The first story walls are composed of large blocks of smooth-cut stone in rustication. A cornerstone carved with 1925 is in the northeast corner of the first story (seen in photo 01). The first story, which features a row of eight 1/1 vinyl windows is topped with a cornice. The windows have smooth-cut sills and lintels that blend into the rusticated walls of the first story. The upper part of the building (cella), composed of a two-story meeting room and balcony, has walls composed of smooth-cut stone topped with an entablature. The cella has massive two-story corner Doric antae with recessed faces, giving the appearance of three narrow pilasters that compose the corner. The north and south facades are divided by a row of seven, two-story Doric pilasters with tall panels between. The panels are trimmed with stone. The south façade features narrow casement windows, wood, in the bottom of each panel (photo 02). The building's pilasters feature egg-and-dart moldings in their capitals. The tall entablature at the top of the cella is composed of smooth-cut stone with rows of dentils at the top of the frieze, just below the cornice. A tall parapet of smooth-cut stone rises above the cornice and features a course of stone forming both a base and cap. A row of seven blind-roundels, trimmed with stone, are on the north and south facades.

The front (east) façade features a wide sidewalk that leads to the sidewalk at Harrison Street. Three steps form a wide stoop at the entry centered on the façade. The entry, located in the first story, has a full-round arched surround with splayed jambs carved with blind-roundels in panels and symbol of Freemasonry at the top (photo 04). A pair of wood doors with bronze hardware and full windows forms the entry. A highly-carved blind arch tympanum is over the doors and features other symbols of Freemasonry including a knight, swords, and shield. Lanterns flank the entry (removed for repair). Two 1/1 vinyl windows flank the entry on the first story. The second story features a wide, two-story recessed bay between large corner antae. The bay has a row of four Ionic columns with pairs of metal balcony doors with iron railings between. The balcony doors, with full windows, have a stone surround composed of pilasters with recessed panels that support an entablature with simple cornice. A tall enframed panel rises above each surround and

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features an arched niche with plinth block flanked by carved scroll brackets. The columns and corner pilasters carry the building entablature across the façade. The words MESSIC MASONIC TEMPLE are carved into the frieze. A row of four blind-roundels are in the parapet.

The north and south facades are very similarly designed and were described in detail under the general building description. Notable differences between the facades include the narrow casement windows in the cella panels of the south façade which are not in the north façade (compare photos 01 and 02 for north and south facades, respectively). The north façade feature three very narrow wood casements with transoms in the bottom of the western-most bay created by pilasters in the cella. One is centered in the panel and the other two flank the panel. The north façade also features an entry in the first story in the easternmost bay. It has a pair of wood doors with full windows and a full-round arched transom, also wood. A metal canopy projects out from under the transom over the doors and the entry is flanked by metal lanterns.

The back (west) façade (photo 03) features a concrete base and walls composed of buff-colored brick with a stone belt course that divides the first story from the upper stories. Stone details wrap around the corners from the north and south facades. The back façade features a wide brick chimney that projects from the façade in its north end. It is capped with a narrow cornice of stone. A wide two-story entry/stairway bay projects from the center of the façade. It features an aluminum and glass entry door and side-lite, sheltered by a metal canopy, in the first story. Two 1/1 vinyl windows are in the landings of the stairway as it ascends to the second story and balcony. The windows have stone sills and the bay features a low-pitched hipped roof. South of the bay, the façade features a 1/1 vinyl window in the first, second, and balcony floors. The façade between the bay and chimney also features a 1/1 window in each of those floors, but the first and second story windows are narrow 1/1 windows.

The interior is arranged with a large dining room in the basement (photo 19), accessed by staircases with foyers at the front (photo 20) and back, with kitchen (photo 18) and mechanical room in the southwest and northwest corner, respectively. The dining room features large square columns of concrete that support the first floor and has modern finishes for its floor, walls, and ceiling. The kitchen features impressive wood cabinetry. The upper cabinets feature wood and glass doors and are trimmed with a simple wood crown.

The first story is divided by a long, central corridor that connects the front entry foyer with the back entry foyer and staircase (photos 06 and 09). The foyers are separated from the hallway by a large, full-round arched opening. A large recreation (pool) room is on the north side of the hallway (photo 05) and the Hacker Meeting Room (photo 08) is on the south side. A secretary's office (photo 07) is located in the southeast corner of the first story, off the foyer, and a library or card room is located in the southwest corner (photo 10). A cloak room is located off the northwest corner of the first story. Most of the rooms are accessed by pairs of wood French doors between heavy pilasters. The pilasters feature corbels that carry tall beams for the second story. The floors are terrazzo and wood and the ceilings appear coffered from the beam work, covered with plaster, that carries the second story. The entry foyer walls are covered with white marble and are engraved with the names of the architect, contractor, and officers during the time of

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construction. The steel staircase that accesses the second story meeting room and balcony feature simple square balusters and newel posts.

The second story is dominated by the meeting hall (photos 12 and 13). A landing is at the top of the staircase (photo 11) and leads to toilet rooms to the north and foyer to the south. An apron room is off the southwest corner of the foyer and a hallway leads to a preparation room off the north side of the former. The preparation room connects to dressing/waiting (photo 17) rooms in the northwest corner of the second story. Double doors lead from the preparation room and foyer into the meeting hall. A stage is centered in the east end of the meeting hall, behind which is located a back stage area (where the front façade balcony doors are located, photo 14) that is the full-width of the building. A long, narrow hallway extends between the foyer and backstage area along the south side of the building (photo 15), out of sight from the meeting hall. The meeting hall walls features rows of enframed panels and large corner pilasters that mimic the exterior treatment of the building. The pilasters carry a tall plaster entablature with rows of swags in low relief in the frieze and rows of dentil moldings. The meeting hall ceiling is barrel vaulted and features the “eye of God” in a painted sun-like form centered in the east wall of the vault. The raised stage is flanked by pilasters with carved, recessed panels of plaster. The pilasters have scroll brackets that carry the lintel across the top of the stage forming a proscenium. The back (west) wall of the meeting hall is covered with wood paneling and features a balcony with wood front wall. The back wall of the balcony (seen in photo 13) features two recessed niches, one for the entry on the south and one for a piano on the north. A movie projection room is between the niches (photo 16).

The balcony level (third story) is accessed by a continuation of the staircase in the center of the west end of the building from the second story. It features a landing at the top of the stairs with contemplation rooms in the southwest and northwest corners. An access ladder/chamber extends from the balcony level to an attic at the back of the building.

Floors throughout the building are a combination of terrazzo, in most public hallways and foyers, and wood or wood covered with carpets in most rooms. Most walls and ceilings are plaster unless previously noted otherwise. The wood doors, which are single-panel, and wood trim throughout remain unpainted. The building retains many of its historic furnishings, light fixtures, and hardware. These include bookcases and cabinetry in the office, library, and kitchen. The impressive meeting hall retains furniture and features important to Masonic meetings and ceremony.

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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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1925 – c.1960

Significant Dates

Significant Person (last name, first name)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

Graham, Donald

Colvin, Leslie

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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is limited to the year the building was constructed, 1925. Very little in terms of alterations have been undertaken by the Masonic lodge that occupies the building, and due to their continued and current use, the building essentially remains in its designed-state and purpose from 1925. Under Criterion A, the lodge's social role in the community is ongoing, but was at its peak from 1925 to c.1960.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Messick Masonic Temple, 1925, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C for its architectural significance. The building is an impressive example of an early 20th century building constructed as a social lodge in the Neoclassical style. Few public buildings of this scale and architectural significance were constructed in Shelbyville and Shelby County. The architect of Messick Masonic Temple, Donald Graham, was more commonly known for his theater projects throughout the Midwest. The building is also eligible under criterion A for its social history as a lodge hall for members of freemasonry in Shelby County. The lodge hall was a significant gathering place for many of the community leaders of Shelby County. Masonic temples were not uncommon in towns large and small, however, the scale and refinements of the Messick Masonic Temple make it noteworthy as a lodge hall for freemasonry in Shelby County and Indiana.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

The Free and Accepted Order of Freemasons is one of the oldest fraternal societies in the United States, and Indiana. The fraternal organization's roots are deep in the masonry guilds of medieval England and emphasize a belief in God and Christian disciplines. By the time Freemasonry entered the Colonies, it was more of a social organization unrelated to the mason guild. The fraternities' ceremonies are characterized by ritual, symbolism, secrecy, and an interest in antiquities. The first Masonic Grand Lodge was established in Boston, Massachusetts in 1733, and descended from England. Indiana's lodges trace their lineage to the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, which was over the Indiana territory until Indiana formed its own Grand Lodge in 1818 at Madison. The Kentucky Grand Lodge descended from Virginia for the same reason-it being under the Virginia Territory. The Kentucky Grand Lodge established charters to lodges in Vincennes (the first lodge established in 1807), Madison, Charlestown, Corydon, Salem,

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Lawrenceburg, Vevay, and Rising Sun. Brookville received their charter from the Ohio Grand Lodge. These charters were all given prior to the establishment of the Indiana Grand Lodge that was formed in Madison, two years after statehood, in 1818. Madison's lodge was known as Union Lodge; its building from 1818 is extant. The number of Indiana lodges grew from five in 1818 to 92 in 1849 with a total membership of 2,472.

With the relocation of the Indiana Grand Lodge to the new state capital of Indianapolis by 1828, a new Grand Lodge Hall became desirable in the city. Prominent property was purchased on Washington Street and the lodge was constructed between 1848 and 1851. In 1855, total membership in Freemasonry in Indiana was 7,440. The number grew with population and popularity to 24,776 by 1890. There were several notable early Hoosier Masons, including several governors: James Lanier, General Anthony Wayne, John Tipton, Abel Pepper, Jonathan Jennings, James Ray, Noah Noble, David Wallace, James Whitcomb, and Caleb Smith. The early history of Freemasonry in Indiana was written by author, historian, and Plymouth newspaper editor Daniel McDonald, who himself was Grand Master of the Indiana Grand Lodge 1874-1875.

Freemasonry, like many other fraternal organizations, gained significant popularity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was estimated that over five million Americans belonged to secret fraternal societies by 1901. The variety of orders includes those based on ethnic and religious groups, breaking into Catholic and Protestant organizations in some circumstances. The Ancient and Accepted Order of Freemasons was the most popular and prestigious of these secret societies. The organization was dominated by white middle class, Protestant men. In 1879, the organization boasted a membership in the United States of 550,000 and by 1925, membership exceeded three million. Freemasonry sought to create a sense of community based on the shared interests and values of its members.¹ The growth and popularity of Freemasonry in many ways followed the surge in religious institutions, including church and Sunday School attendance during the late 1800s and early 1900s. It should be no surprise, then, that Freemasonry's primary objective was moral uplift and self-improvement of its members. These were expressed as part of traditional middle-class values of sobriety, temperance, thrift, piety, industry, and self-restraint. Many of the organization's symbols, traditions, and rituals were reflective of man's relationship to God, the inevitability of death, and hope for immortality.² Freemasons distinguished themselves from the outside world of politics, commerce, and other secular interests by gathering in their temples and lodges which were seen as sacred asylums where the love of God could be cultivated, and the bonds of fellowship and improvement of the individual were part of a prized brotherhood.³ The leadership role exercised by fraternal lodges, in general, steadily declined after the 1960s.

Edward Chadwick provides a lengthy history of Freemasonry in Shelby County in his 1909 county history. In it, he states that Freemasonry was first introduced in Shelby County through a charter dated 1825 from a dispensation by Abel Pepper made in 1824. The lodge title was

¹ Dumenil. Pg. xii

² Ibid

³ Ibid

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Lafayette Lodge No. 28 and the meeting location was determined where members deemed expedient. Meetings were conducted at lodge member houses and for the following three years, it experienced good growth with some of the county's early and prominent settlers among its membership. A new charter was created in 1828 which split the area represented between Hanover and Shelbyville until 1836 when the charter remained with Worshipful Master William Hacker of Shelbyville. In 1845, the lodge site was permanently seated at Shelbyville. In 1852, the lodge name was changed to Shelby Lodge No. 28, by which it was known until the time of Chadwick's writing in 1909. The William Hacker Lodge No. 360 of Shelbyville received its charter in 1867 but had merged with the parent lodge, Shelby No. 28, in 1879. John Messick, namesake of the current lodge, was junior warden of the lodge.⁴ By 1909, Messick had become treasurer of Shelby Lodge No. 28. At that time, the lodge leased its meeting place. Between 1852 and 1869, they jointly shared a lodge with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows with whom they constructed a three-story building on the town square. The Masons sold their interest in the building to the Oddfellows and then leased space in the Deprez Building until 1899. At that time, they loaned funds from the sale of the lodge in 1869 to individuals who constructed a business block on South Harrison. They then relocated the lodge to that building.⁵

When it came time to construct a new lodge hall, the members of Shelby Lodge No. 28 determined that it should be named for long-time member, John Messick, who died in 1915. Messick was a successful banker and businessman in Shelbyville who was also a member of Shelby Chapter, No. 20, Royal Arch Masons; of Shelby Council, No. 3, Royal & Select Masters; of Baldwin Commandery, No. 2, Knights Templar; and he was also a member of the local chapter of the Eastern Star. Two lots were purchased with funds from property bequeathed by Messick for construction of the building in July 1924.⁶ Construction soon began on the new building with the cornerstone being laid with full Masonic ceremony on August 19, 1925.⁷ Lodges from throughout the state were invited to attend the ceremony and the dedication the following year, which occurred on July 29, 1926⁸. A parade leading from the central business district to the building featured the various lodges of Indiana and Shelby County. The cost of the building was between \$100,000 and \$150,000 and over 1,000 Masons visited Shelbyville during its dedication.⁹

Several other Masonic lodges either were developed from Shelby Lodge No. 28, or were created in other parts of Shelby County. The first of these was located at Pleasant View and named Pleasant Lodge No. 134 in 1852; it was later transferred to Acton in Marion County. Four other lodges of Free and Accepted Masons formed in the county including Morrystown Lodge No. 193 (1856), Sugar Creek Lodge No. 279 (1862), Waldron Masonic Lodge (1858), and at Norristown, known as the Farmers' Free and Accepted Masons Lodge No. 147 (1853). By the 1909 writing,

⁴ Chadwick, pg. 164-165

⁵ Chadwick, pg. 167

⁶ "Shelbyville Masonic Lodge to Dedicate Temple July 29" *Indianapolis News* 17 July 1926. Pg. 8

⁷ "Shelbyville Masons to Lay Cornerstone New Temple Aug. 19" *Franklin Evening Star* 14 Aug. 1925. Pg. 8

⁸ "Temple Dedication Set July 29" *Indianapolis Sunday Star*, 18 July 1926. Pg. 4

⁹ *Shelby County Histories and Families, Vol. 1*. Shelby County Historical Society, 1992. Page 131

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the lodges were described as prosperous or flourishing. The Sugar Creek lodge was transferred to Fairland and enjoyed a membership of 48 in 1887.¹⁰

Besides Messick, only two other Masonic lodge buildings are extant in Shelby County. The Fairland Masonic Lodge is an Italianate building constructed in 1873 on Washington Street. The Waldron Masonic Lodge is a fairly simple, vernacular building constructed c. 1900 on Washington Street. The scale of both buildings relate to the memberships of the smaller, more rural communities they served. Mention should also be made of two large-scale lodge buildings of other fraternal organizations in Shelbyville. Both the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Chillon Lodge of the Knights of Pythias constructed their buildings in the downtown district in 1895 and 1901, respectively. The buildings were constructed in the Romanesque Revival style and are comparatively large and similar in scale to the Messick Masonic Temple.

Masonic temples in Indiana that compare by virtue of refinements, but are slightly larger in scale, include Kokomo, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Terre Haute, Muncie, South Bend, and Indianapolis. All of the buildings were built in the Neoclassical style between about 1913 and 1926, except for the temple at Muncie, which was built in the Late Gothic Revival style in 1920. Muncie's seven-story temple cost \$1 million to build, but was partially funded by the Ball brothers, one of whom was a Mason. Kokomo, South Bend, Evansville, and Terre Haute are similar in scale to each other, four-to-five stories tall, and similar in treatment of their facades. The elaborate Indianapolis temple by architects Rubush & Hunter (1908) is eight stories. The Fort Wayne temple (1926) has a temple-front nearly identical to the Kokomo (Howard) lodge and was designed by Charles Weatherhogg.

ARCHITECTURE

The Messick Masonic Temple is an impressive example of early 20th century Classical Revival architecture often identified as Neoclassical style. The massive scale of the building is punctuated by its formal temple-like front, raised base of rusticated stone, and the massive entablature at the top of the building (photos 01 and 02). Interior finishes continue the classical architecture theme with entablature-like treatment of the tops of walls (photos 06 and 12).

The Classical Revival style emerged at the turn of the new century and continued into the 1930s in American cities. Several events and trends fed the movement toward Classicism. Planners of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 embraced classicism for most of the fair's major buildings. The Federal government adopted classicism for its expanding number of courthouses and post offices, beginning in the 1890s. While Americans had often chosen variants of classical-inspired architecture for civic projects, the new classicism was usually grander in scale. For the new classicism, architects often used detail that was "archaeologically" correct to convey in precision of design and construction the features and proportions of classical building elements.

¹⁰ Chadwick, pg. 165

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The style coincided with America's political and economic rise, as well as the coming of age of American cities. By the late 1910s and into the 1920s, as a robust American economy permitted, the style was being executed with greater attention to classical styling, and businesses increasingly were seeking its image.

The Messick lodge exemplifies in every view and detail classical architecture. The classical order is established, first, with the arrangement of its facades with the raised base, in this case rusticated on the three primary facades, cella (main body of the building), and entablature. The formal, symmetrical temple-front features a recessed stone portico on the second story with two-story Ionic columns and heavy entablature (photo 01). Rows of pilasters continue on the north and south side facades in a colonnade-like design that further enhances the classical temple appearance. The classical order, particularly as it related to classical temple construction, is further carried out in the plan of the building, which includes an anteroom (the front part of the building) used as an entry into the first story, then reversed for the main hall (acting as the cella of a Greek temple) at the back of the second floor. The entablature-like treatment at the top of the main hall, complete with swags in low-relief, contributes to the sacred feel combined with its two-story volume, barrel-vaulted ceiling, and other elaborate features. Marble veneers on walls, trim, steps and even toilet partitions demonstrates the significance the lodge places on using the highest quality materials when constructing their meeting places. The level of preservation of original features is remarkable and include impressive oak cabinetry and furniture in the banquet hall and billiard room, porcelain toilet fixtures, and elaborate light fixtures throughout the building. Important symbols of Freemasonry are throughout the building. The lodge is furnished with tables, chairs and other furniture that has been part of Messick lodge history since the 19th century.

Architect Donald Graham of Indianapolis was selected by the Shelbyville lodge for the design of the Messick Masonic Temple in 1925. Graham had at least one other Masonic Temple project, in Millersville, Indiana, which began construction in the same year. Millersville's lodge building is constructed in a shallow U-shaped plan with walls composed of brown-colored brick. A two-story, slightly recessed and raised portico of limestone is centered on the front façade. Graham was a native of Noblesville and graduated in 1907 from the University of Illinois. He began practicing architecture in Indianapolis in 1911 and was joined in a partnership at one time under the name Graham and Hill, though it had dissolved by 1925. Graham designed a number of theaters throughout the Midwest including both the Granada and Rivoli Theaters, in the Italian Renaissance style, in Indianapolis. He also designed Prentice Presbyterian Church and the massive Crane Naval Ammunitions Depot during World War II in southern Indiana. Graham died December 21, 1951 in Indianapolis.¹¹ The Shelbyville Masons turned to fellow-Mason, Leslie Colvin, to construct the building. Colvin was an Indianapolis contractor who was a member of an Indianapolis Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, and Murat Shrine. Colvin's company constructed many large projects including Indiana University's Memorial Stadium in Bloomington, the Indiana State Trade Association building, Indianapolis Methodist Hospital, and Riley's Hospital for Children.¹²

¹¹ "Donald Graham Dies: Prominent Architect" *Indianapolis Star* 22 Dec 1951. Pg. 17

¹² "Leslie Colvin Dies; Building Firm Owner" *Indianapolis Star* 6 April 1965. Pg. 23

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While there are several examples of Neoclassical architecture throughout Shelby County, most are modest examples except for a few located in Shelbyville. One of the finest, and oldest examples is Shelbyville's Carnegie Library constructed in 1902 with a raised portico with colonnade, and domed roof. Thomas Hendricks School and Shelbyville High School are large examples of the style and contemporaries from the 1920s of the Messick Masonic Temple. City leaders also constructed Shelbyville City Hall in the style, entirely of carved limestone, in 1928 near the downtown square. And while the Shelby County Courthouse was designed in the Art Deco style in 1936, it should also be noted because of its close proximity to Messick, one block north (background of photo 02). The grand limestone building has a stylized colonnaded façade and raised entry.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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“Shelbyville Masonic Lodge to Dedicate Temple July 29” *Indianapolis News* 17 July 1926. Pg. 8

“Shelbyville Masons to Lay Cornerstone New Temple Aug. 19” *Franklin Evening Star* 14 Aug. 1925. Pg. 8

“Temple Dedication Set July 29” *Indianapolis Sunday Star*, 18 July 1926. Pg. 4

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 # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Messick Masonic Temple
Name of Property

Shelby County, IN
County and State

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 145-585-45125

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 605094 | Northing: 4375228 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Messick Masonic Temple is located on Lots 1 & 2 of Toner & Bennett's Addition to the City of Shelbyville. This is the southwest quarter of the city block bounded by Harrison and Elm Streets on the east and west, respectively, and Taylor and South Streets on the north and south, respectively. Combined the lots are 107 feet east/west and 98 feet north/south.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Messick Masonic Temple
Name of Property

Shelby County, IN
County and State

The two lots were purchased for the construction of the lodge in 1925. Lodge activities on the campus have historically been restricted to the two lots since 1925.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kurt West Garner
organization: Messick Preservation Foundation
street & number: 12954 6th Road
city or town: Plymouth state: IN zip code: 46563
e-mail: kwgarner@kwgarner.com
telephone: 574-780-1423
date: May 25, 2022

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
-

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Messick Masonic Temple

Messick Masonic Temple
Name of Property

Shelby County, IN
County and State

City or Vicinity: Shelbyville

County: Shelby State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: February 26, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at building

1 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at building

2 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at back (west) facade

3 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west at front entryway

4 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest in pool room on first floor

5 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west into main corridor hallway from front entry on first floor

6 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest in secretary room/front office

7 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest in first floor meeting room/Hacker Room

Messick Masonic Temple
Name of Property

Shelby County, IN
County and State

8 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east through first floor main corridor

9 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast in first floor card room/library

10 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at second floor landing/main staircase

11 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast in second floor lodge room/lodge hall

12 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west in second floor lodge room/lodge hall

13 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north in backstage area of second floor

14 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west down side hallway on second floor

15 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast in projector room on mezzanine level

16 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west in hallway outside of waiting rooms

Messick Masonic Temple
Name of Property

Shelby County, IN
County and State

17 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest in basement level kitchen

18 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast in basement level dining room

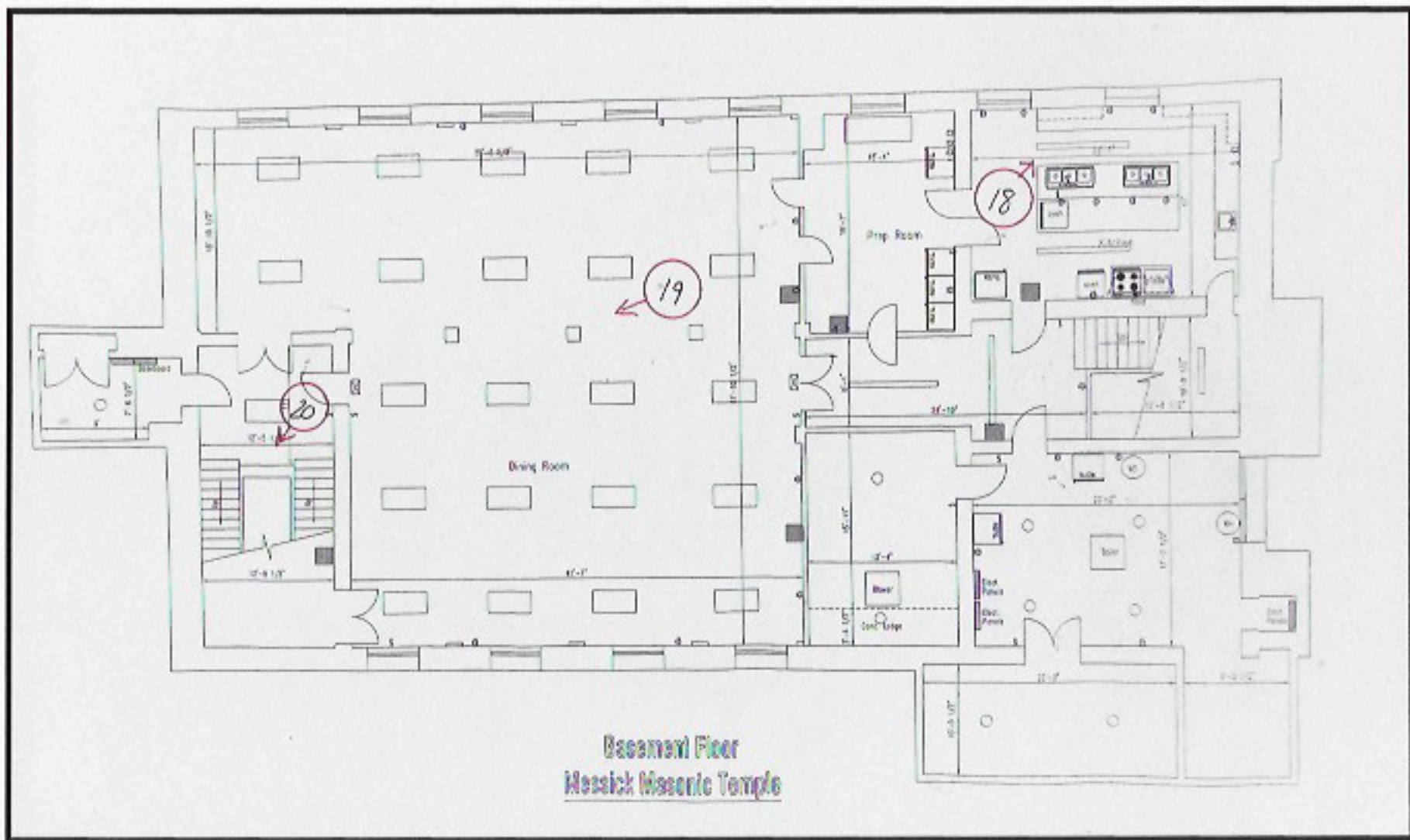
19 of 20.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north/up from front basement stairs to north entry

20 of 20.

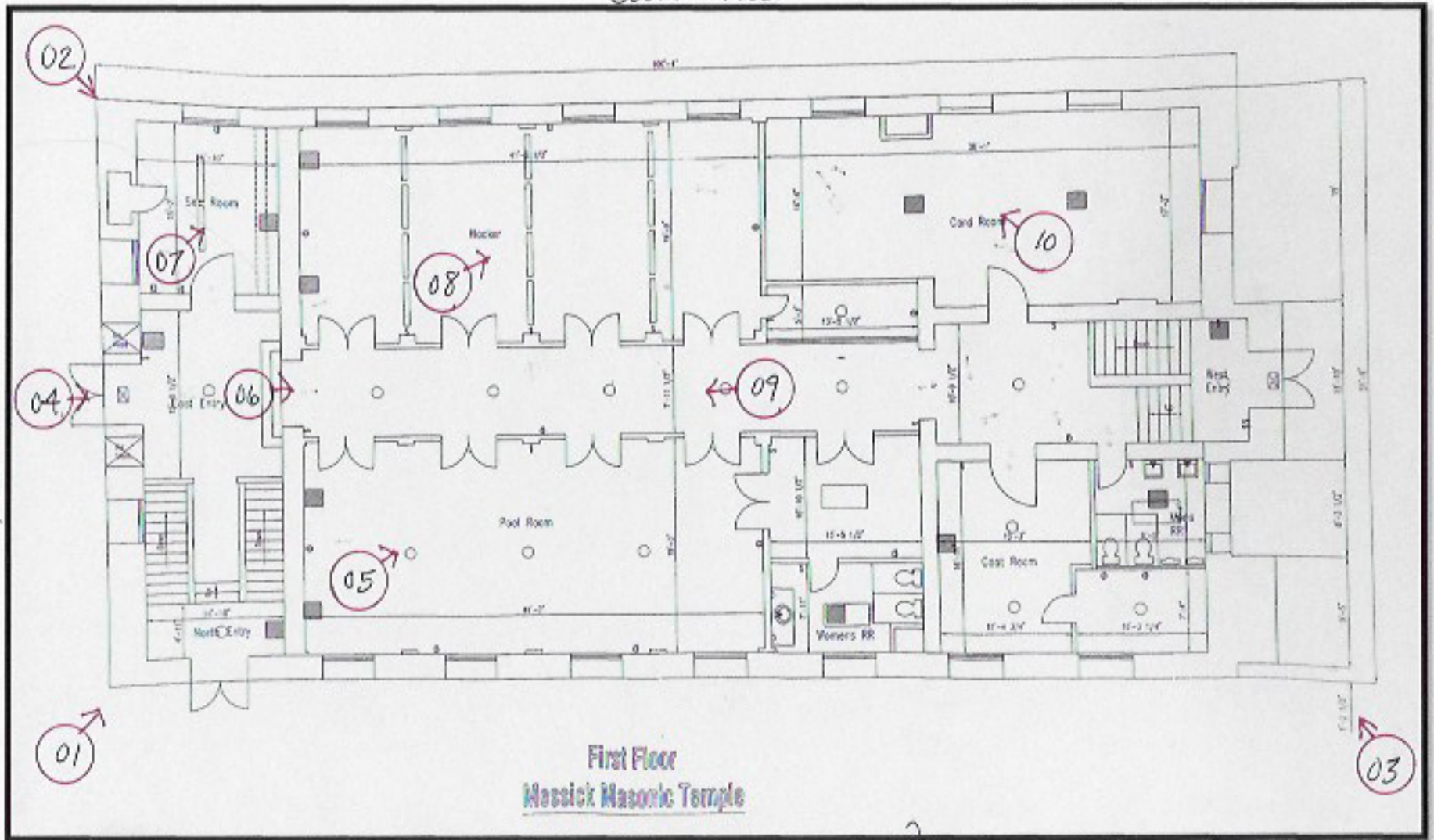
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



North
 ↓
 MESSICK MASONIC TEMPLE
 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 SHELBYVILLE, SHELBY CO. IN
 BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

SOUTH STREET



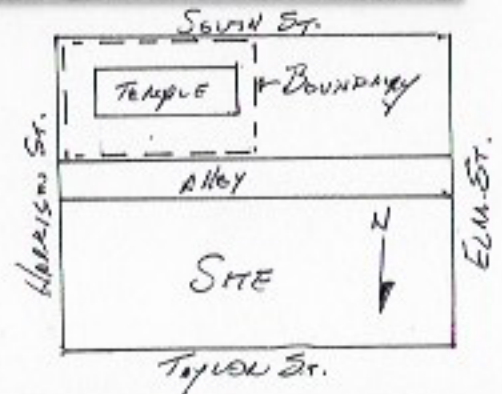
First Floor
Messick Masonic Temple

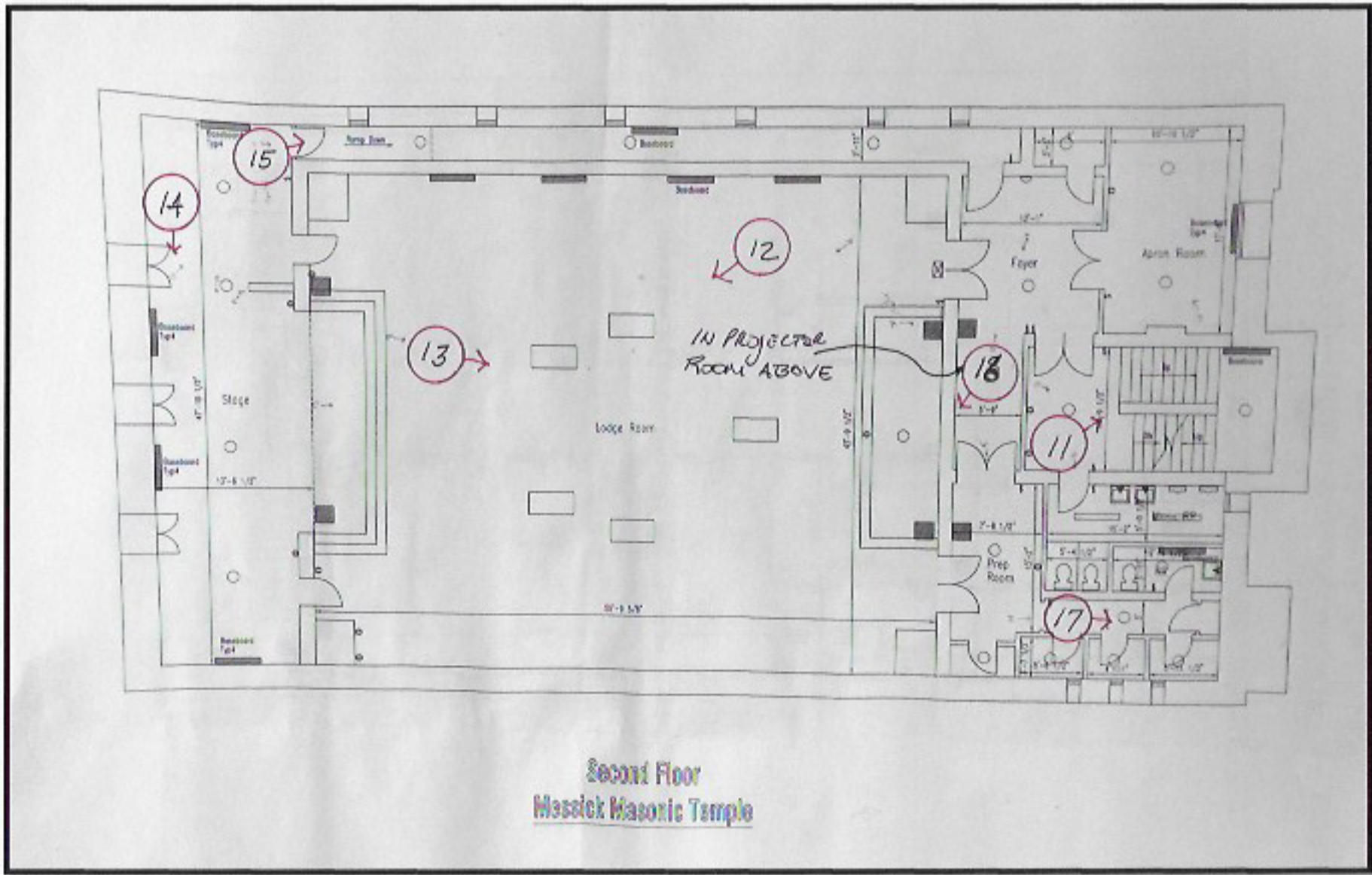
North
↓

MESSICK MASONIC TEMPLE
NATIONAL REGISTION OF HISTORICAL PLACES
SHELBYVILLE, SHELBY CO. IN
FIRST FLOOR & SITE PLAN

Alley

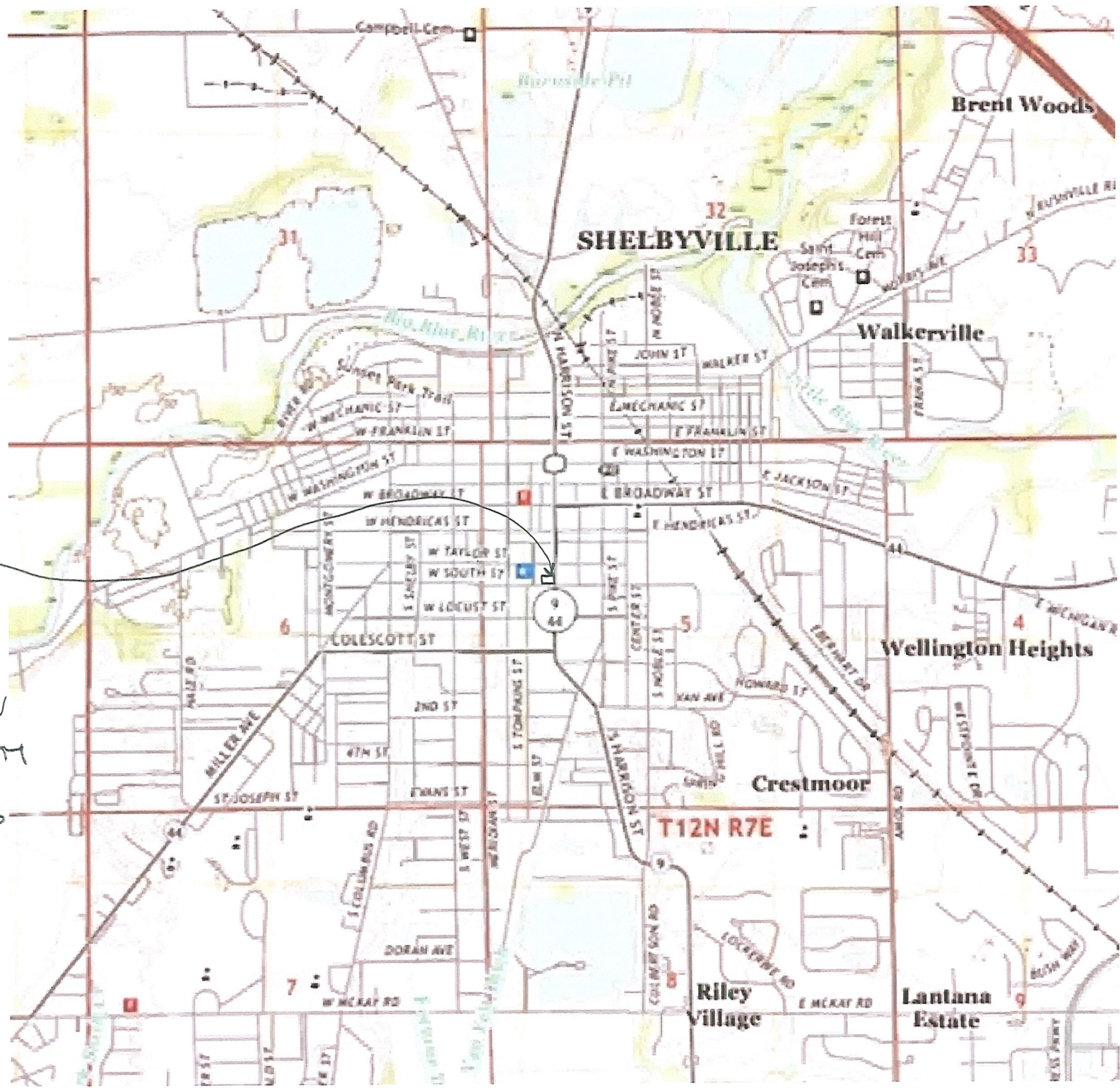
BOUNDARY





North
↓

MESSICK MASONIC TEMPLE
 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 SHELBYVILLE, SHELBY CO. IN
 SECOND FLOOR PLAN



MESSIAH
 MOSAIC
 TEMPLE
 NATIONAL
 REGISTER OF
 HISTORIC
 PLACES.
 SHELBY CO. IN
 NAD 83 UTM
 16 605094
 4375228

T12N R7E



IN_ShelbyCounty_MessickMasonicTemple_0001



IN_ShelbyCounty_MessickMasonicTemple_0002



IN_ShelbyCounty_MessickMasonicTemple_0003



IN_ShelbyCounty_MessickMasonicTemple_0005



IN_ShelbyCounty_MessickMasonicTemple_0008



IN_ShelbyCounty_MessickMasonicTemple_0012



IN_ShelbyCounty_MessickMasonicTemple_0013



IN_ShelbyCounty_MessickMasonicTemple_0016



IN_ShelbyCounty_MessickMasonicTemple_0019