

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name Masonic Grand Lodge Building

Other names/site number Masonic Grand Lodge Office and Library, MW Grand Lodge of Kansas Library and Museum, Grand Lodge AF & AM of Kansas; KHRI # 177-2617

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

Street & number <u>320 SW 8th Avenue</u>		not for publication
City or town <u>Topeka</u>		vicinity
State <u>Kansas</u> Code <u>KS</u> County <u>Shawnee</u> Code <u>177</u> Zip code <u>66603</u>		

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this x 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 x 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 x local Applicable National Register Criteria: x A B x C D

SEE FILE
Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date _____
Kansas State Historical Society
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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 _____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social: Meeting Hall

Recreation and Culture: Museum

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social: Meeting Hall

Recreation and Culture: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals:

Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Stone: Limestone

roof: Concrete Tile

other: N/A

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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

Located at the northeast corner of SW 8th Avenue and SW Harrison Street in Topeka, the Masonic Grand Lodge Building faces south toward the Kansas Statehouse. The two-story early twentieth century Classical Revival building has concrete foundations, limestone walls, and a non-original concrete tile roof lined with original ornamental copper flashing and gutters. The main entry consists of a stone staircase and portico with Ionic columns. The non-original entry door and transom window are flanked by two historic light posts. Three arched openings on the first level are accompanied with scrolled keystones. The east façade features four two-story and one one-story round-arch windows looking into the Grand Lodge Museum. The west façade similarly has five arched windows looking into the first floor work room. Engaged limestone columns divide each bay of windows.

Elaboration

Setting

The Masonic Grand Lodge Building (1916) is located at 320 Southwest 8th Avenue in Topeka. The building is placed in the Statehouse Square neighborhood directly northwest of the Kansas State Capitol building on the corner of SW 8th Avenue and SW Harrison Street. On this corner, the building displays its prominent cornerstone that reads "A.D. 1916 A.L. 5916 MW Grand Lodge of A.F. and A.M. of Kansas." Once surrounded by single-family homes, the Grand Lodge now sits among office, institutional and commercial properties. (Figure 1)¹ This two-story building has functioned as the Kansas Masonic main office building and archives since it's opening in 1917. The building faces south and is rectangular in shape measuring 71 by 150 feet. The building is constructed of concrete reinforced with steel and is clad in limestone.²

South Façade

The Classical Revival building rests above the ground level on the basement pedestal with two window wells lined with steel. The primary south façade is defined by 5 window bays. Three of these bays feature large arched windows with stone scrolled keystones. A portico is supported by four ionic columns that extend the full height of the building and rest on square plinths. Each intercolumniation width has a single stone coffer in the above entablature. The outer two ionic columns are partially engaged in rectilinear pilasters that support the portico. The entablature features a dentil band and the building's name, "The Masonic Grand Lodge Building," carved in stone. The top of the pediment is concluded with a copper antefix that runs along the perimeter of the building with two alternating anthemion heads. Large copper anthemion acroterion frame each corner of the building and highlight the separation of inner bays and outer bays. Historic photographs show large towering trees at the south and west sides of the building. (Figure 5)³ The Grand Lodge's records indicate they were removed because they became diseased.

The main entry consists of a set of stone stairs with 7 steps. The non-historic double entry door and transom window are flanked by ionic columns and two historic cast iron light posts. The three legged claw foot cast iron posts stand on the stair landing holding glass globe shades well above eye level. The outer bay windows are rectangular and feature stone sills supported by corbels. Each of the second floor outer bay windows is accompanied by two small rectangular clerestory vents. A small grassy lawn in front of the south façade holds a large stone sign for the Order of the Eastern Star and a flag pole built in 1983.⁴

¹ 1913 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. *University of Kansas Libraries LUNA*.
<http://luna.ku.edu:8180/luna/servlet/view/search?QuickSearchA=QuickSearchA&q=topeka&sort=Identifier%2CArea%2CCitation%2CClassification&search=Search>.

² MW Grand Lodge of Kansas: Library and Museum, Original Blueprints of the Grand Lodge Building, c. 1914-1916.

³ MW Grand Lodge of Kansas: Library and Museum. c. 1917.

⁴ Robert L Tomlinson, Jr., *History of Kansas Masonry*. Vol. II (The MW Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Kansas, 2005), 6.

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West Façade

The West façade faces SW Harrison Street. It is divided into nine window bays. Seven of these window bays are divided by engaged Ionic columns. Five non-original aluminum arched windows and two outer rectangular windows light the first floor work room. Above each arched window on the second floor are two original double hung windows. The outer bay windows are separated from the inner bays by rectangular pilasters similar to the south façade. Two clerestory vents are situated above each of the five inner most bays and two outer most bays. A rocky bed lines the west façade foundation dividing the building from the sidewalk.

North Façade

The North façade rests at the edge of an alley looking north into a parking lot once occupied by houses. It features seven bays of rectangular windows. A loading dock with stairs leads to two doors. One door enters into the freight elevator and the other into the back stairwell of the first floor work room. All windows on the North façade appear to be original steel windows. The east portion of the façade features four bays with stacked double-hung windows that light the library stacks on the main floor. The second floor also has double-hung windows with two small clerestory vents similar to the ones on the south façade. The basement double-hung windows are barred to prevent trespassing. A chimney flue located at the northwest portion of the roof is visible from the alley.

East Façade

The East façade exhibits seven bays of windows, the inner bays featuring five arched windows, four of which extend from the first floor to the second floor. The fifth arched window looks into the second floor mezzanine reading room. At its original construction, the east façade was not largely visible from SW 8th Avenue with large trees and a neighboring house blocking much of the view. Because of this, the architect did not utilize architectural divisions such as columns similar to the south and west façade. Today, a parking lot opens the view to the street. Similar to the north façade, the northeastern windows on this façade have two stacked double hung windows lighting the library stacks. The window wells are lined with steel. A strip of grass runs along the edge of the building to the back alley. Parking plaques, introduced in 2008, are attached to the stone masonry façade below the first level windows.⁵

Interior

The Grand Lodge Building has two floors and a basement. The basement is currently used for storage and archives for the Grand Masonic Lodge offices and museum. Original steel stacks fill the majority of the space, and the rest is used as unassigned storage and mechanical space. The first level holds the main offices for the Grand Lodge including the Grand Master and Grand Secretary Offices, and the Grand Lodge Museum and library. The second floor holds more offices for various organizations within masonry and a workroom that was reassigned as a lodge meeting room in 2005. All floors of the building, including the ground floor, have a lobby space in which main and ancillary spaces are organized.

On the first floor, there is a controlled vestibule area with a second set of wood and glass doors original to the building that enters into a **rotunda**. An historic pendant light and shade hangs down into the vestibule. Eight Doric columns with faux marbling encircle the rotunda. The vestibule and rotunda have terrazzo and mosaic floors and marble baseboard finishes. The center the rotunda space features a terrazzo square and compass Masonic emblem in the floor. An historic chandelier hangs above.

Directly adjacent to the rotunda an original **passenger elevator** is still in operation. The **grand staircase** in the rotunda has three curvilinear bullnose stairs at its base where it spirals up to a three-quarter turn stair leading to the second floor. A steel staircase below the grand staircase leads to the basement.

Many of the historic light fixtures seen in historic photographs have been replaced with newer hanging fixtures. The Grand Lodge offices retain the solid wood wainscoting and original wood doors. Carpet covers the hardwood floors that extend through most of the building, including the work room and the museum.

The **museum** has a large atrium space lit by the two-story arched windows. The first floor museum space is approximately 38 feet by 54 feet. A stair leads up to the second floor mezzanine that looks over an intricate steel railing down into the first floor space. To the north are the original steel stack structures with marble tile floors and historic light fixtures. The stacks have an intermediate level between the first and second floor with a steel staircase.

⁵ MW Grand Lodge of Kansas: Library and Museum.

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The **workroom** to the west, originally purposed for research and archival work, now houses offices and archives. The work room has its own intermediate mezzanine and staircase with intricate steel railings.

At the top of the grand staircase is the **second floor lobby**. Historical drawings indicate there was a grand fireplace in this lobby, but there is neither visible evidence nor photographic documentation that there was a fireplace at any point in time. The offices bordering the lobby have undergone minor renovation with a suspended acoustical tile ceiling and new finishes. Other alterations to these offices include a non-original wall in the office south of the main stair and a non-original door in the office just north of the passenger elevator.

The chapter **library** on the second floor was reassigned as a lodge meeting room in 2005. This involved removing the original steel stacks and placing new interior finishes typical to a lodge meeting room. Checkerboard tile dominates the center of the room where an altar has been placed.

On the second floor, the library stacks below have been covered by a steel sheet allowing for additional storage (date unknown), but reducing the original amount of daylight received by the stacks. A few original pendant lights remain in this otherwise untouched area.

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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.)

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance

1916-1964

Significant Dates

1916, 1917

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Edward Lippincott Tilton (architect)

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the construction of the building in 1916 and continues to 1964, the fifty-year closing date for periods of significance where activities begun historically continue to have importance, but no more specific date can be identified.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

N/A

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Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Summary

This property is nominated under Criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to Kansas Masonic history and the broader history of Topeka, Kansas. The Masonic Grand Lodge Building has served as the headquarters for the Kansas Masons since 1917. The building comprises of offices for the Grand Lodge, a library and museum of Kansas Masonry, and an archive for organizational records. Many people have walked the halls of this building including numerous state and federal legislators, judges, lawyers, bankers, farmers, city officials, and local business owners.

Additionally, this property is nominated under Criterion C for its architectural significance. This early twentieth century Classical Revival temple represents the work of a master, notable New York architect Edward Lippincott Tilton. Tilton's body of work includes the first phase of buildings at Ellis Island and several Carnegie libraries. Currently, thirteen of Tilton's buildings are listed in the National Register. The Masonic Grand Lodge Building has maintained its historic function since it was first occupied by the Masons.

Elaboration

A Brief History of Masonry

Freemasonry is a centuries old fraternal organization that originally comprised of stone craftsmen. The society was formed to control the craft and pass on masonry secrets.⁶ Shrouded in myth and mystery, the origin of this ancient masonry organization is unknown, but documents of this fraternal organization date back to as early as 1390 in England, though the organization is thought to be older.⁷ Masters passed their knowledge down to their apprentices to continue craft traditions older than the fraternity itself.

In the seventeenth century, this craft fraternity began to change. Rather than solely initiating members of trade masonry, lodges in England began to initiate gentlemen of high intelligence and accomplishment from other fields and trades. During the next few hundred years, the fraternity's structure and practices changed dramatically.⁸ It is from these lodges in England that American lodges today descend.⁹

In 1733, the Grand Master of New England granted a charter to eighteen masons in Boston to form a lodge, which is today the St. John's Lodge.¹⁰ There is evidence that unchartered lodges formed earlier than this date in the colonies. The fraternity spread throughout the colonies and to the territories to the west. Despite the rifts between ancient and modern lodges, Masonic traditions continued in the colonies. In 1813, the ancient and modern sects were united under one Grand Lodge.¹¹

The Beginnings of Kansas Masonry

The U.S. government opened Kansas Territory to settlement in 1854, bringing an influx of speculators and settlers. The first Masonic Lodge in Kansas was formed in Wyandotte County in 1854, bringing its ancient traditions from England.¹² Two other lodges were chartered shortly after, and on March 17, 1856, the Grand Lodge of the Territory of Kansas was established. The Grand Lodge united the lodges of Kansas under one authority. As Kansas developed in the late nineteenth century, interest in masonry grew, and many charters were issued.

⁶ S. Brent Morris, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Freemasonry, Second Edition, Special Edition Grand Lodge of Kansas* (New York: Penguin Group, 2013), 8.

⁷ Morris, 6.

⁸ Morris, 8.

⁹ Morris, 8.

¹⁰ Morris, 31.

¹¹ Morris, 8.

¹² Ben W. Graybill, *History of Kansas Masonry* (The MW Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Kansas, 1975), 2.

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Local History

In 1854, Master Mason Cyrus Kurtz Holliday moved to Lawrence, Kansas. Later that year, Holliday and others founded a new town on the Kansas River that became Topeka. Holliday lived in Topeka for the rest of his life working to bring commerce and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad to town. He served as the first and only president of the Topeka Town Association and, years later, as the Mayor of Topeka. In 1861, Kansas was admitted into the Union as a slave-free state, and in 1862, Holliday donated twenty acres to the newly formed state for a state capitol building.¹³

On October 17, 1866, the cornerstone of the Statehouse was laid in the northeast corner of the East wing by the Grand Lodge of Kansas.¹⁴ Masons of many orders and ranks came from all over the state to participate in the ceremony. The cornerstone contained documents and other relics, although it is unknown what sort of documents the stone contained.¹⁵ Unfortunately, the brown limestone initially used in the capitol was not strong enough, and soon the foundations were crumbling.¹⁶ New, stronger limestone was laid in its place and the cornerstone was later thought to have been removed along with the other failing stone.

The Grand Lodge of Kansas History

After almost forty years, the Grand Lodge did not have a permanent location for its offices and archives. The Grand Lodge offices were moved from Clay Center to Topeka in 1895 by Grand Secretary Albert K. Wilson.¹⁷ There, the lodge searched for a suitable permanent headquarters. Additionally, Wilson wrote a four page report outlining the duties of the Grand Lodge Librarian.¹⁸ The following year, Wilson set out to compile a complete registry of Kansas Masonry membership using a recording system that is still in use today.¹⁹ By 1899, he had completed the registry, despite many opinions from neighboring jurisdictions that it could not be done. As a purveyor of history, Wilson set out to organize the Grand Lodge archives and worked hard to fill the gaps in the Grand Lodge's history.

In 1903, a flood wreaked havoc throughout the Kansas River Valley, particularly in Kansas City and Topeka.²⁰ The Grand Master at this time, Bestor G. Brown, suggested that the Grand Lodge take immediate steps to compile the Kansas Grand Lodge history. In 1904, a special committee for history and a museum was formed to care for the Lodge's history, as well as the memorabilia and artifacts in its possession.²¹ Resulting from this discussion was the need of a new home for the Grand Lodge. In 1905, the Grand Lodge found a suitable site on the corner of SW 8th and Harrison facing the state capitol, and they took residence in an existing brick house on the lot.²² The plot was seventy-five feet by one-hundred thirty feet. A proposal was made to construct an addition at the rear of the residence to contain a library, vaults and a storage room. Not long after the Grand Lodge moved into their new home, the building began to fall into disrepair.²³

It was reported in the Grand Lodge's 52nd Annual Communication in 1908 that a leak developed in the roof, and the lowest bid to fix it was \$450.²⁴ Instead, the Grand Master decided on a temporary repair for only \$27. In 1914, more of the building had fallen into disrepair, and the Grand Lodge began considering two options: fix the existing building or construct a new building.²⁵

¹³ Graybill, 12.

¹⁴ MW Grand Lodge of Kansas: Library and Museum, Newspaper Archives. "Fail to Discover Cornerstone of State Capitol." Date Unknown.

¹⁵ "Fail to Discover Cornerstone of State Capitol."

¹⁶ "Fail to Discover Cornerstone of State Capitol."

¹⁷ Graybill, 37.

¹⁸ Graybill, 37.

¹⁹ Graybill, 37.

²⁰ Graybill, 44.

²¹ Graybill, 44.

²² Graybill, 45.

²³ Graybill, 47.

²⁴ Graybill, 47.

²⁵ Graybill, 51.

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However, by 1915, it was clear the existing building was inadequate for the Grand Lodge's needs.²⁶ A special committee was formed to oversee the design and construction of a new facility, and \$50,000 was allotted for a new building at the same location. On March 12, 1915, the Grand Lodge placed an advertisement announcing a competition for the floor plan design of the new Grand Lodge Building in the *Topeka Daily Capital* newspaper.

On March 31, 1915, the lodge selected R.L. Gamble's floor plans.²⁷ Albert K. Wilson is largely credited for his influence in the design and construction of the new Masonic Grand Lodge Building. His hand in the process is evident in the Grand Lodge's records. An early undated schematic floor plan of the new building was found with the inscription "Floor Plans for a Masonic Grand Lodge Office and Library Building – Arrangement Suggested by – Albert K. Wilson, Grand Secretary Drawn by R. L. Gamble, Architect, Topeka, Kansas."

Gamble's plan design exceeded the amount the Grand Lodge had agreed upon.²⁸ In response, the lodge moved to select a design that would accommodate their needs for fifty years or more to justify such an expense. Relatively content with the floor plan they received through the competition, the Grand Lodge sought another competition to design their facades. Ray L. Gamble was not selected to be the overall architect of the project. Two years later, he became the Kansas State Architect.²⁹

Wilson sought advice for selecting an architect to design the Kansas Grand Lodge in its entirety.³⁰ In 1915, Wilson contacted John Russell Pope, the architect who had designed the National Grand Lodge in Washington D.C.³¹ Pope gladly assisted and suggested the Grand Lodge of Kansas seek out architects with expertise specific to their needs. After researching potential architects that would be suitable to design the Kansas Grand Lodge office building and museum, Wilson corresponded with at least three architects: John Russell Pope, located in D.C.; Lester H. Hibbard in Los Angeles; and Edward L. Tilton in New York City.³²

The Architect

On February 17, 1916 the Grand Lodge selected Edward L. Tilton to be the architect of the project because his location offered more feasible and speedy communication than the other architects in question.³³ Tilton's work on the Masonic Grand Lodge building includes the façade designs and a floor plan based on Gamble's schematic plans. It was typical of Tilton to hire a local architect to supervise construction work, but it is uncertain if that architect was R.L. Gamble, the local architect who drew the original schematic floor plans.³⁴

Born in 1861, Tilton studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris with William A. Boring, who later became his architectural partner.³⁵ Their firm won a competition in 1897 to design the first phase of buildings at Ellis Island. Resulting, they became nationally recognized architects. There are no other known Tilton-designed buildings extant in Kansas.

After 1904, Tilton began to work independently becoming increasingly specialized at designing libraries.³⁶ An important landmark in his career was the Springfield Central Library in Massachusetts in 1912. Here, he began to utilize an open plan eliminating unnecessary walls and architectural elements, and he began to develop a distinct approach to the Classical Revival style which became progressively modest as his career continued. In his career,

²⁶ Graybill, 52.

²⁷ MW Grand Lodge of Kansas: Library and Museum, Original Blueprints of the Grand Lodge Building, c. 1914-1916.

²⁸ Graybill, 52.

²⁹ William E. Connelley and Clara Francis Shelton, eds., *Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society 1923-1925, vol. XVI* (Topeka, KS: Kansas State Printing Plant, 1925), 703. For a brief biography of Ray L. Gamble, see Susan Jezak Ford, "Prescott Rural High School" National Register of Historic Places nomination form, (Topeka, KS: Kansas Historical Society, 2007) 8.

³⁰ MW Grand Lodge of Kansas: Library and Museum, Carbon Copies of Correspondences between the Grand Lodge of Kansas, Contractors and Architects; 1915-1916.

³¹ Carbon Copies of Correspondences between the Grand Lodge of Kansas, Contractors and Architects.

³² Carbon Copies of Correspondences between the Grand Lodge of Kansas, Contractors and Architects.

³³ MW Grand Lodge of Kansas.

³⁴ Mausolf, 1.

³⁵ Mausolf, 1.

³⁶ Mausolf, 2.

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Tilton designed approximately one hundred libraries and published numerous articles and papers on library design, earning a reputation as a library design expert.

This open plan approach is apparent in the floor plan of the Masonic Grand Lodge Building utilizing concrete columns and freeing interior space. Well-lit spaces are reserved for researchers and readers, while the stacks and museum archives are mainly placed underground with a few stacks accessible through the museum.

The Masonic Grand Lodge Building

The building's cornerstone was laid in a ceremony attended by 1,200 members on July 21, 1916.³⁷ Within five months, this celebratory atmosphere was dampened by tragedy when five people were killed when the Masonic Home in Wichita burned. The home was destroyed, but the hospital and chapel were saved.³⁸ The Grand Lodge reached out to individual lodges asking for donations to help with temporary structures.³⁹

In May 1917, the construction and furnishing of the Grand Lodge Building was complete costing about \$108,000 total.⁴⁰ The new building appeared to be well received by the Grand Lodge.⁴¹ Once the Mason's moved into their new building, the archives were organized in the abundant stacks largely aided by Grand Secretary Albert K. Wilson. The museum was opened to the public for Masonic and genealogy research.

Photographs from 1917 show the building as it was when first constructed, and very little has changed. The stacks are more populated, more artifacts busy the museum floor and more furniture populates the work room. Today, the museum contains significant documents relating to the prime chartering authority, the United Grand Lodge of England.⁴² These documents include patents, charters and other documents signed by the Duke of Kent. Heirlooms and antiques clutter the unassigned storage space in the basement archives, and the stacks are filled with leather bound volumes.

One of the first Grand Masters to set up office in the new building was Benjamin S. Paulen, the 23rd Governor of Kansas.⁴³ He was born in DeWitt County, Illinois July 14 1869.⁴⁴ At three months old, he moved with his family to a farm in Wilson County, Kansas. He later attended the University of Kansas and then went into business with his father in 1889. In 1912, Paulen was elected to the Kansas State Senate where he served two terms.

Paulen was elected Kansas lieutenant governor in 1922 the same time he was serving as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kansas.⁴⁵ Paulen then served two terms as the Governor of Kansas.

Preserving Lodge History

In 1924, Albert K. Wilson called to the lodges of Kansas to continue collection and preservation efforts.⁴⁶ Several lodges had lost their original charters to fires. He asked the lodges to send their original charters to the Grand Lodge to photograph and store in a fire proof vault where they remain intact today.

In 1929, Wilson began compiling information into a book documenting Kansas Grand Lodge History.⁴⁷ On April 6, 1949 Albert K. Wilson died having served as Grand Secretary for thirty-four years.⁴⁸ He was unfortunately unable to witness one of his greatest research endeavors come to a close. For over twenty years as Grand Secretary, Wilson searched for the location of the Statehouse cornerstone, but to no avail.

³⁷ "Cornerstone Laid by Grand Master," *Topeka Daily Capital*, 22 July 1916, 5.

³⁸ "Five Die When Masonic Home in Wichita Burns," *Topeka Daily Capital*, 23 December 1916, 7.

³⁹ Graybill, 53.

⁴⁰ Graybill, 54.

⁴¹ MW Grand Lodge of Kansas.

⁴² MW Grand Lodge of Kansas.

⁴³ Graybill, 56.

⁴⁴ "Benjamin S. Paulen." *Kansapedia*. 19 May 2014. <http://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/benjamin-s-paulen/17116>.

⁴⁵ Graybill, 56.

⁴⁶ Graybill, 59.

⁴⁷ Graybill, 63.

⁴⁸ Graybill, 78

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On September 17, 1950 a newspaper article Titled “Mystery is Solved, to Dig Up Lost Stone Today,” states that the long lost cornerstone of the Statehouse was found after many years of intense research.⁴⁹ Landscaping had buried the stone deep beneath the ground level. The next day, disappointed onlookers found illegible deteriorated eaten papers and books.⁵⁰ The only items still intact were a gold piece and a silver dime. The remains were carefully taken to the Kansas Historical Society for archiving. On October 26, 1950, the Grand Lodge replaced the original cornerstone.

The Grand Lodge has a prevailing history of laying cornerstones for most of Kansas’s significant public buildings. Thanks to the effort of past Masonic historians and Grand Secretaries, the Grand Lodge’s cornerstone ceremonies are documented along with the much of the organization’s philanthropic work. Through philanthropy and a steady hand in politics, this organization of distinguished individuals has greatly impacted Topeka. However, the extent of public service by the Grand Lodge is difficult to quantify as Masons are known for their modesty.

This property is associated with men from a diverse spectrum of backgrounds that reflect those who settled and developed Kansas. Prominent names that have held office in this building include Kansas Governor Benjamin S. Paulen who served as the Grand Master from 1921-1922; Richard Ely Bird, a U.S. Representative and Grand Master from 1923-1924; and Henry S. Buzick, Jr., the Kansas Speaker of the House and Grand Master from 1938-1939.

Other significant names in Kansas Masonry history include the following: Henry Justin Allen, 21st Governor of Kansas; Edward F. Arn, 32nd Governor of Kansas; William H. Avery, 37th Governor of Kansas; William Augustus Ayres, U.S. Representative; and Frank Carlson, U.S. Senator.⁵¹

Architecture

Two exhibitions of the late 19th and early 20th centuries highlighted the Classical Revival style of architecture – the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago and the 1901 Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo. The subsequent two decades of the early 20th century witnessed the growth of the style’s popularity, particularly in civic and commercial architecture. Important Classical Revival works by architects such as McKim, Mead & White, John Pope Russell, and George Cary, followed these expositions in the early 20th century. One of John Russell Pope’s most well-known works is the Masonic Temple of the Scottish Rite (1910-1916) in Washington, D.C. It was modeled after the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus. McKim, Mead and White had several seminal Classical Revival works, including New York’s Pennsylvania Station (1906-1910) and the Knickerbocker Trust Company (1904-1907) and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (1912) in Minnesota.⁵²

The use of the Classical Revival style in commercial, civic, and religious buildings was present in Topeka during the 1910s and 1920s. Examples listed in the National Register of Historic Places include the Central National Bank at 701 South Kansas Avenue (designed by Wight and Wight; constructed 1927); Holy Name Catholic Church at 1110 SW 10th Avenue (designed by Henry Schlacks; constructed 1925); the multi-story Jayhawk Theater at 700 SW Jackson Street (designed by Thomas Williamson; constructed 1926); the Kansas Statehouse (designed by John Haskell, et. al.; constructed 1866-1903); and the Union Pacific Railroad Passenger Station at 200 North Railroad Street (designed by Gilbert Stanley Underwood; constructed 1927). Another excellent example of the style is the U.S. Post Office and Federal Building at 424 South Kansas Avenue (designed by Louis Simon; constructed 1933).⁵³ Interestingly, the Masonic Grand Lodge Building was completed a decade before many of Topeka’s best examples of the style.

This 1916 Classical Revival-style building exhibits reinterpreted Classical elements, including large ionic columns, supporting an entry portico, arched windows, and a stone stair leading to the main entry. Following the Classical

⁴⁹ Milton Tabor, “Statehouse Mystery Solved, To Dig Up Lost Stone Today,” *Topeka Capital (Topeka, Kansas)* 17 July 1950.

⁵⁰ “Only Gold Piece, Silver Dime Are Intact in Old Cornerstone,” *Topeka Capital (Topeka, Kansas)* 18 July 1950.

⁵¹ MW Grand Lodge of Kansas.

⁵² Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles – Revised Edition* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1992), 167-171.

⁵³ Kansas Historic Resources Inventory, kshs.org/khri.

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ideal of simple, clear forms conveying grandeur and a delineated order,⁵⁴ this building has modest ornamentation compared to many of Tilton's earlier Beaux Arts-style buildings.

The building retains its architectural integrity with a few alterations. One window well was removed on the east façade for the construction of a vault in the basement (date unknown).⁵⁵ Additionally, the original red clay tile roof was mostly replaced in 1968 with tan concrete tiles after a storm damaged the historic roof.⁵⁶ Several original steel sash windows were replaced in the 1980s with aluminum windows, including all of the main façade windows and the exterior front door.⁵⁷ Many of the existing steel windows show signs of deterioration with peeling paint and visible rust. In 2005, offices on the second floor were altered to accommodate a new lodge meeting room for the Order of the Eastern Star, a freemasonry organization open to both men and women.⁵⁸ Most recently, a complete foundation drainage system was added to the east, south, and west sides of the building. Masonry repairs are evident on all facades and especially at the south stone stair.

⁵⁴ Leland M. Roth, *American Architecture: A History*. Westview Press (Boulder, Colorado; Westview Press, 2001), 291.

⁵⁵ Graybill, 59.

⁵⁶ MW Grand Lodge of Kansas.

⁵⁷ MW Grand Lodge of Kansas.

⁵⁸ MW Grand Lodge of Kansas.

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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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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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: MW Grand Lodge of Kansas: Library & Museum

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property .23875 acres

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.

(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>39.050194</u> Latitude:	<u>-95.678352</u> Longitude:	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The nomination includes the Masonic Grand Lodge Building, which is situated on the property described as: ORIGINAL TOWN, LOT 26 +, EIGHTH AVE EAST LOTS 26-28-W 21 2/3 FT LOT 30 & E 5 FT LOT 30, SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 11 RANGE 16.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

This boundary includes the building and the land with which it is currently and historically associated.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brianna McKenzie
organization Treanor Architects date 06/04/2014
street & number 1715 SW Topeka Boulevard telephone 785-235-0012
city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66612
e-mail bmckenzie@TreanorArchitects.com

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Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Kansas Masonic Foundation, Inc.
street & number 2909 SW Maupin Ln. telephone 785-357-7646
city or town Topeka state 66614 zip code _____

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.

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial 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.

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Grand Lodge A F & A M
City or Vicinity: Topeka
County: Shawnee State: Kansas
Photographer: Architectural Fotographics
Date Photographed: 01/17/2014

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

- 1 of 10: South façade, view from SW 8th Ave.
- 2 of 10: South façade up close, view from SW 8th Ave.
- 3 of 10: East façade, view from SW 8th Ave.
- 4 of 10: West façade, view from SW 8th Ave. and SW Harrison St.
- 5 of 10: North façade, view from north of the building.

Photographer: Treanor Architects
Date Photographed: 05/20/2014

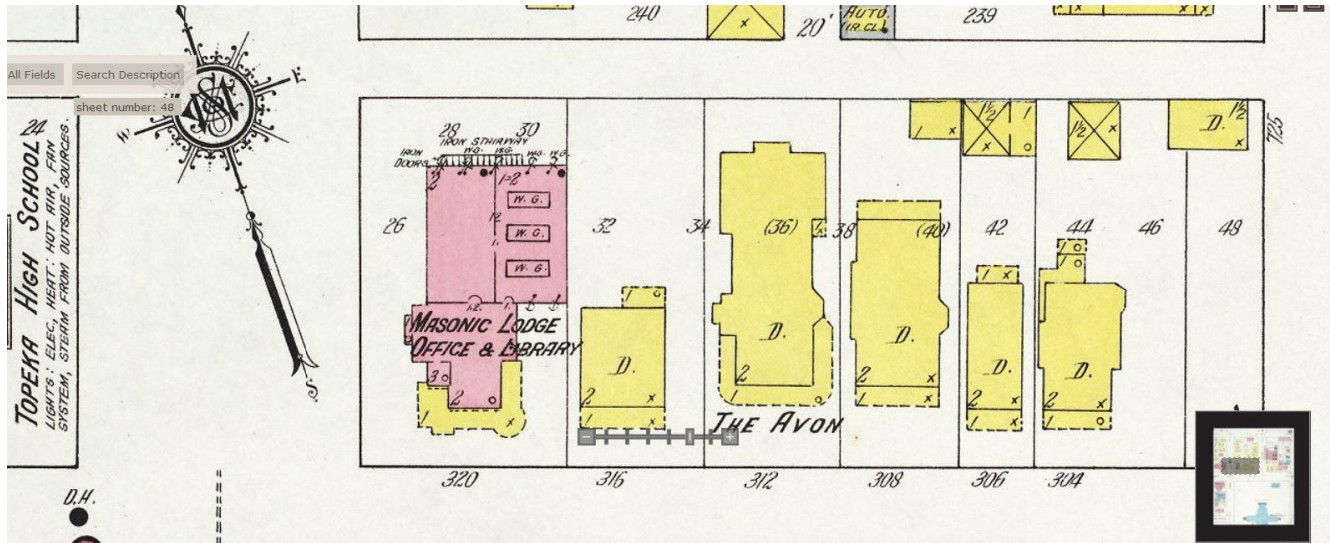
- 6 of 10: Rotunda, looking west.
- 7 of 10: Assistant to the Grand Secretary's Office, looking west.
- 8 of 10: First floor workroom, looking north.
- 9 of 10: First floor museum, looking northwest.
- 10 of 10: Museum mezzanine, looking northeast.

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Figures

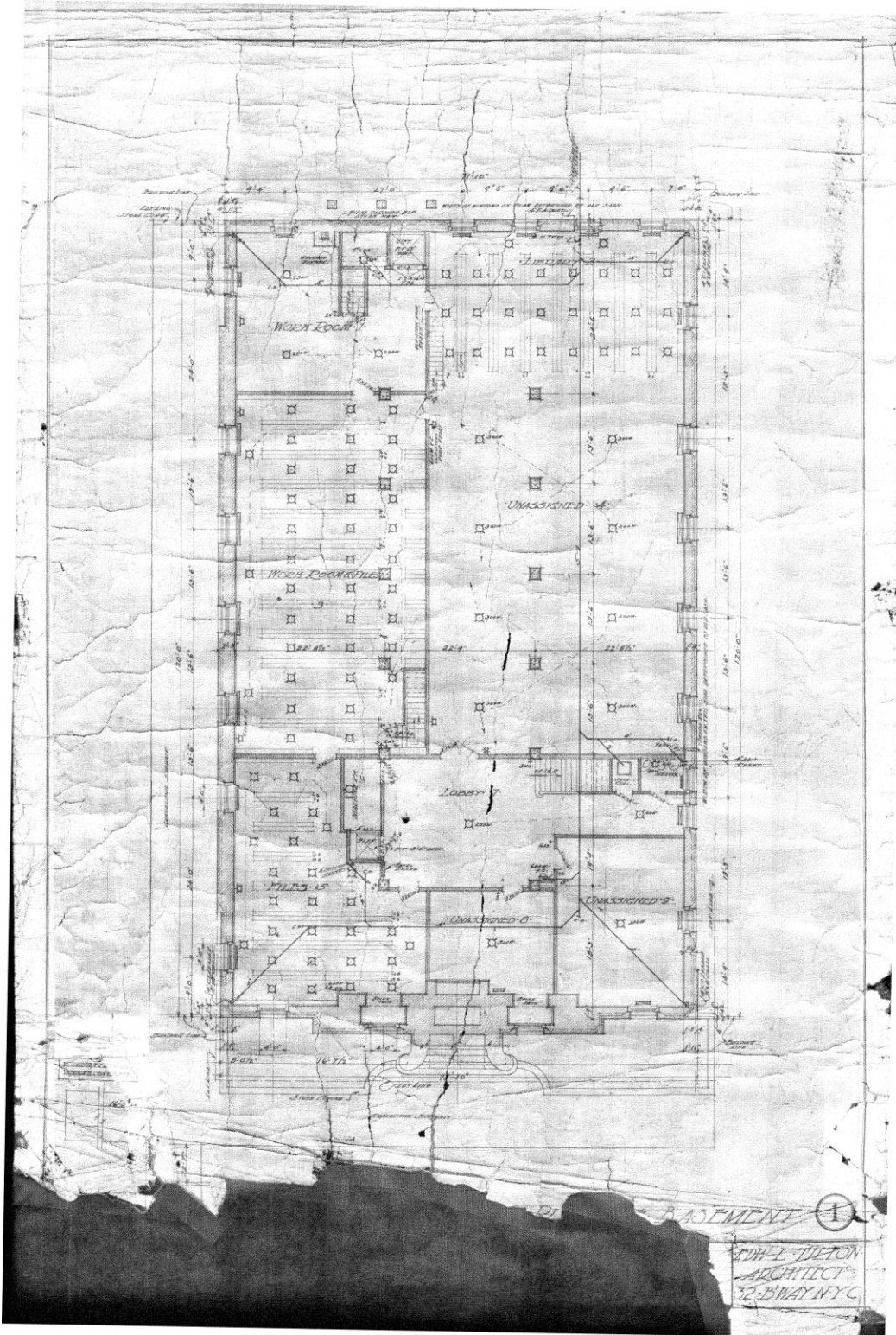
Figure 1: 1913 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Clip. Source: University of Kansas Libraries LUNA.



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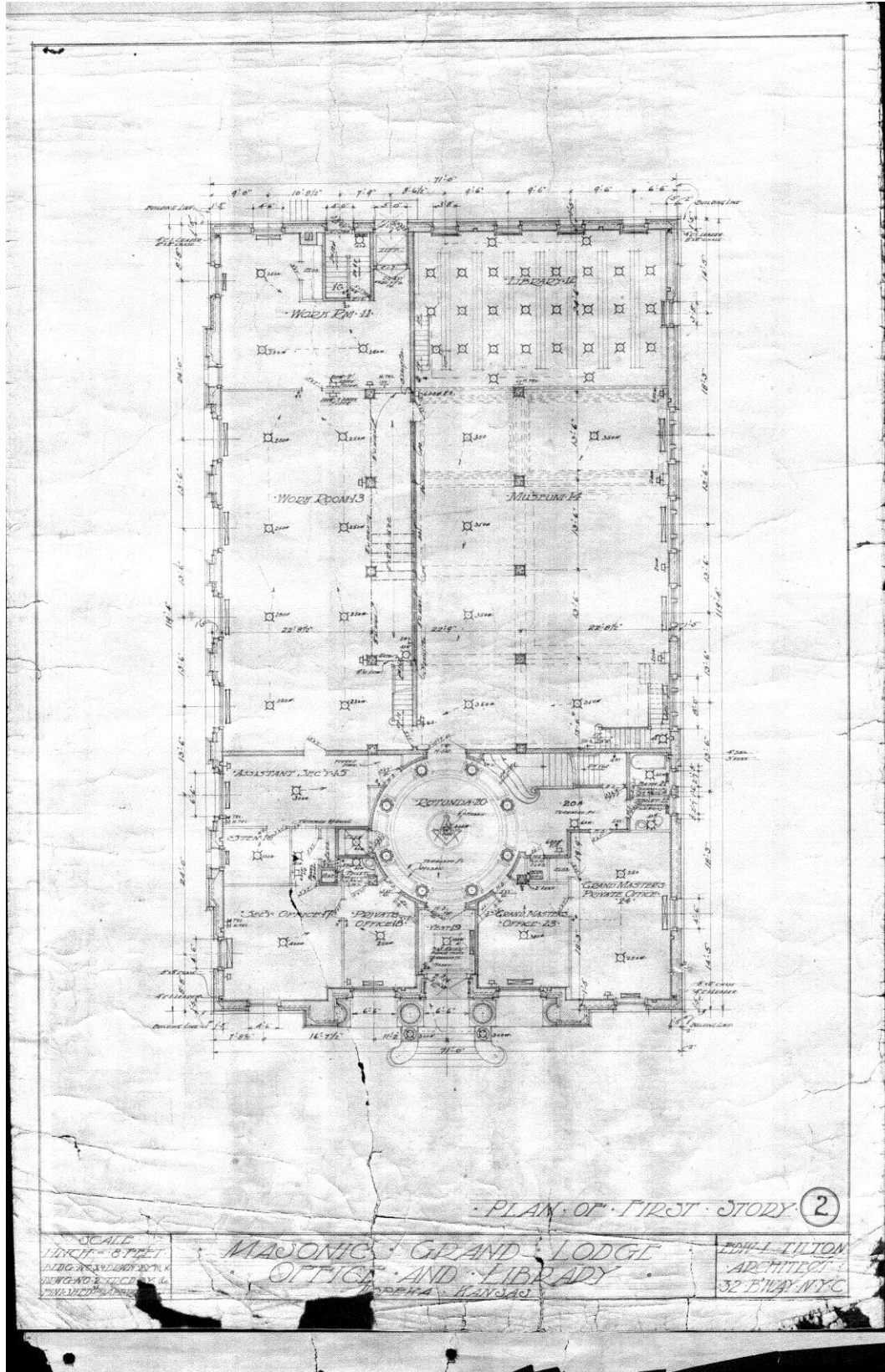
Figure 2: Basement Floor Plan, 1916.



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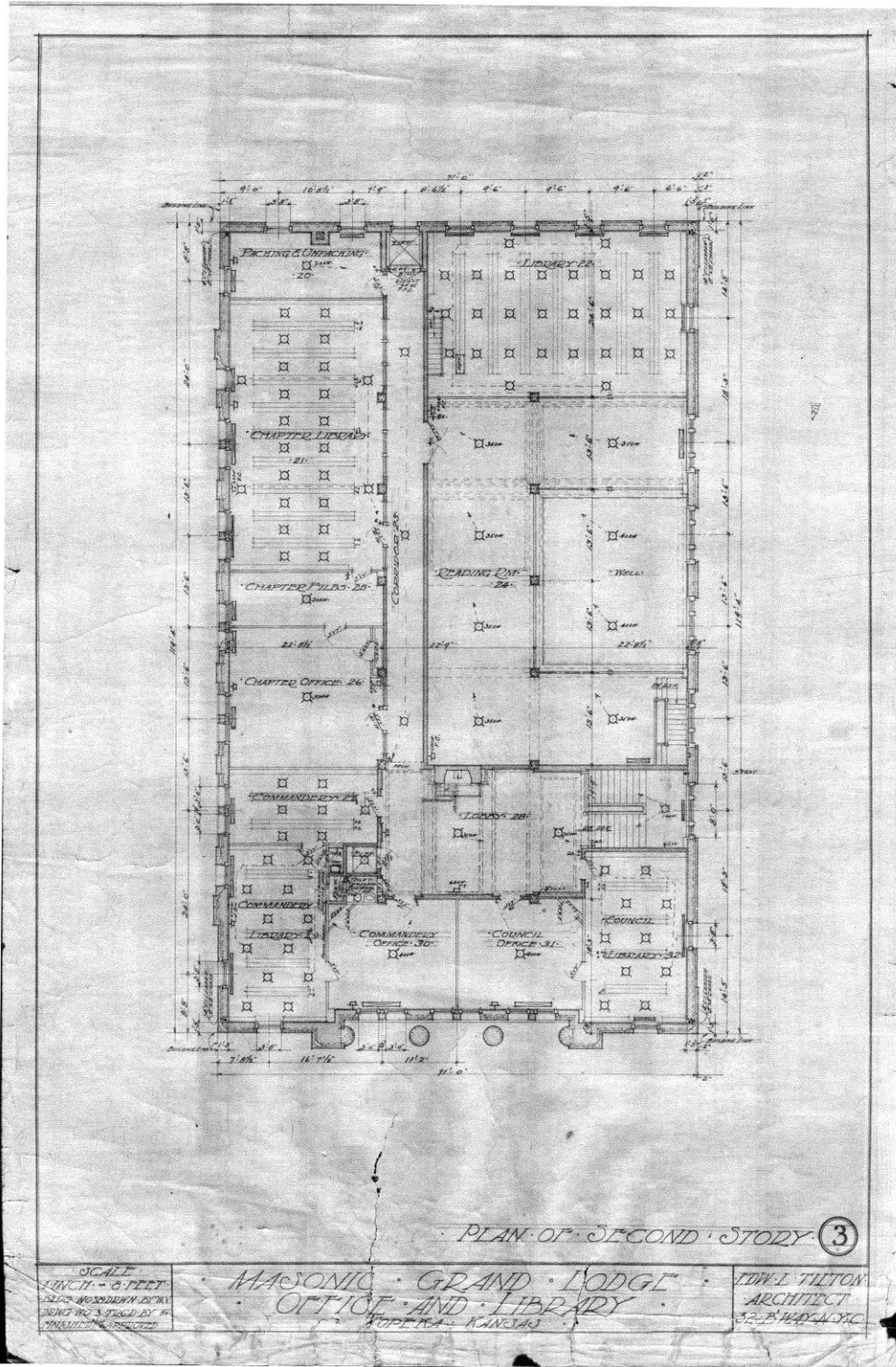
Figure 3: First Level Plan, 1916.



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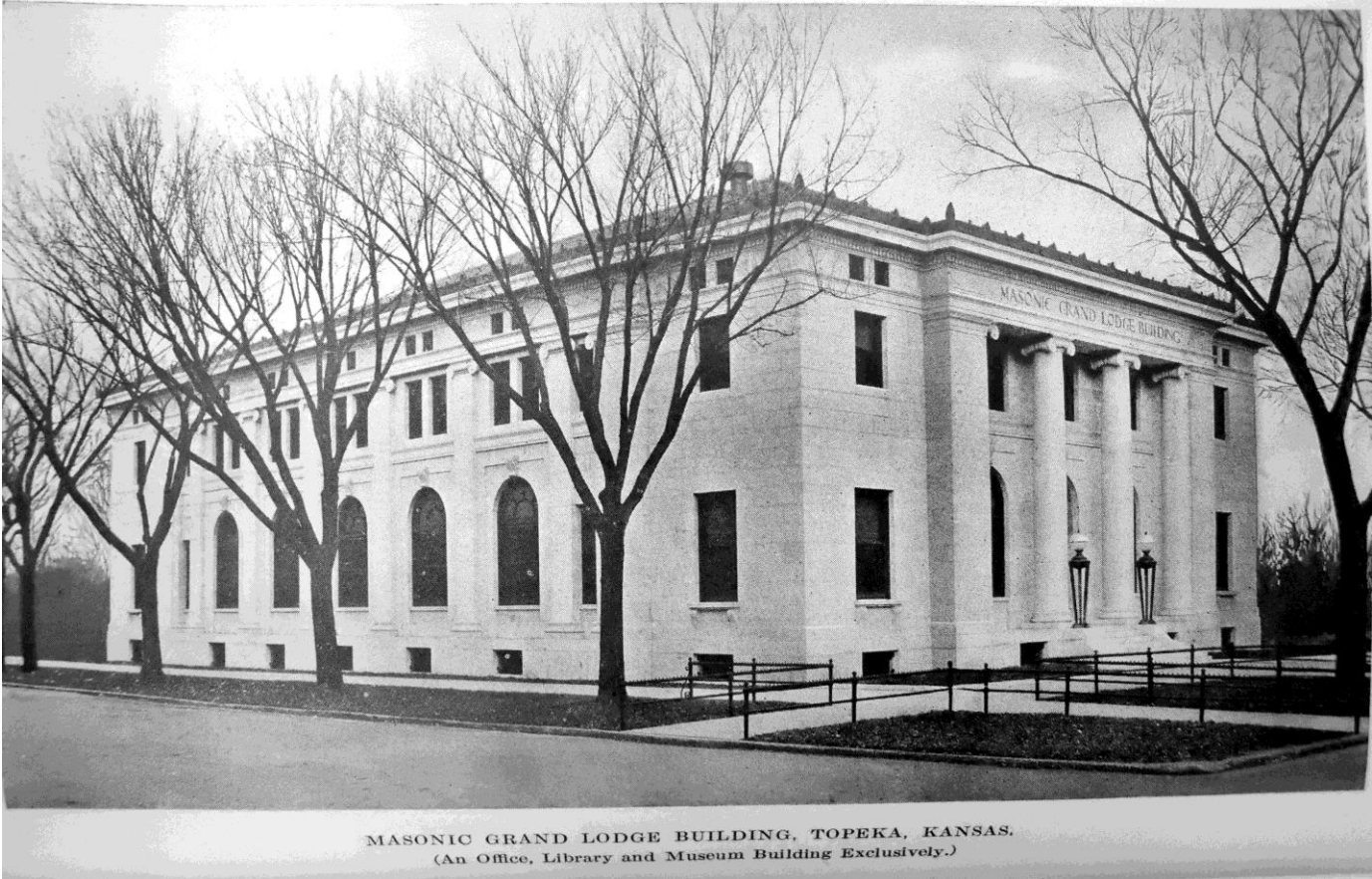
Figure 4: Second Level Plan, 1916.



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Figure 5: Exterior view from SW 8th Ave and SW Harrison St, 1916.

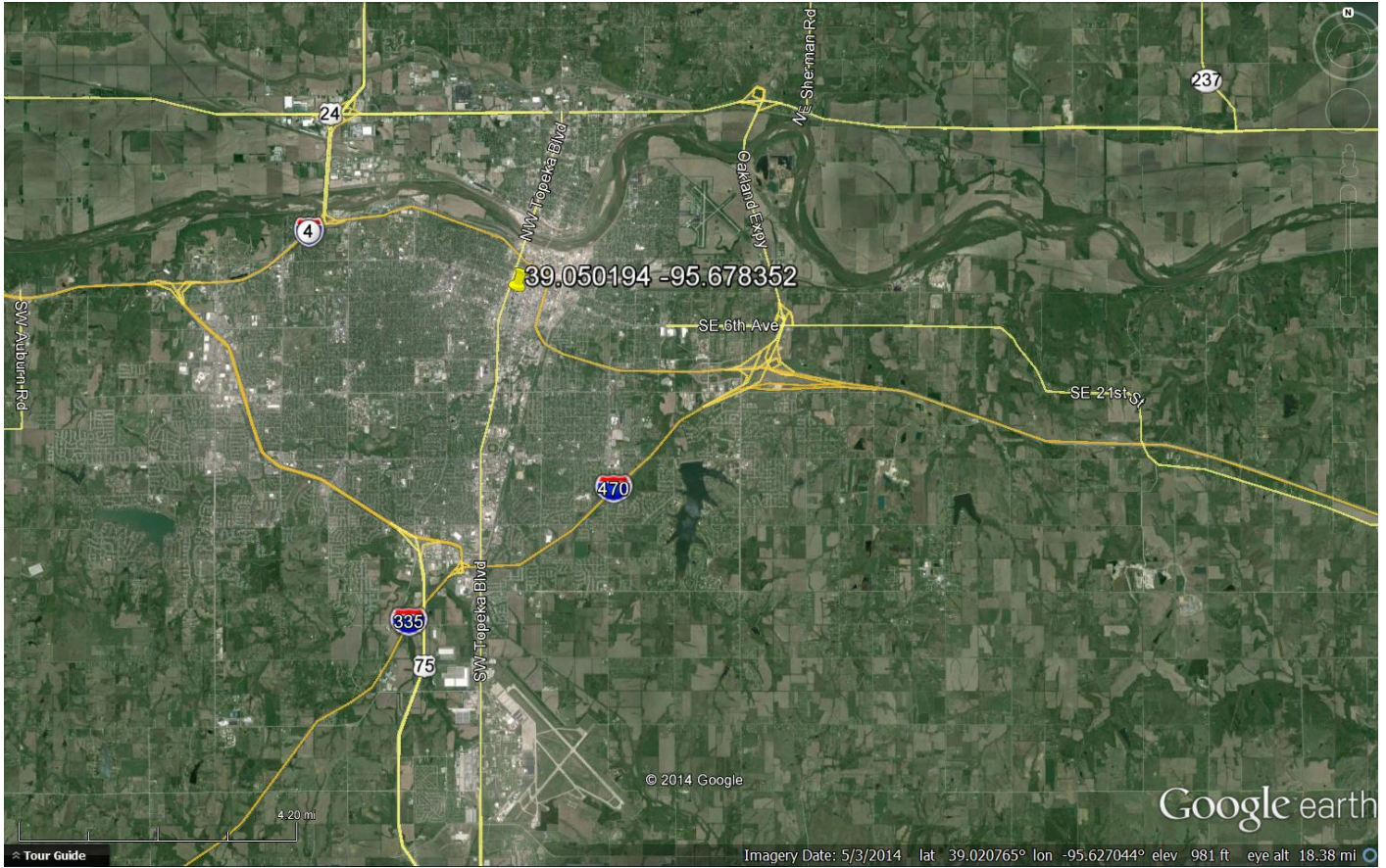


MASONIC GRAND LODGE BUILDING, TOPEKA, KANSAS.
(An Office, Library and Museum Building Exclusively.)

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Figure 6: Contextual Aerial Image, Google Earth 2014.



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Figure 7: Close-in Aerial Image, Google Earth 2014.

