

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Masonic Temple Theater
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 115 N. Main not for publication
city, town Mount Pleasant vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Henry code 087 zip code 52641

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Architectural & Historical Resources of Mt. Pleasant, IA
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/TheaterSOCIAL/Meeting Hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/Theater

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)20th Century RevivalClassical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestonewalls Brick

roof Asphaltother Cast concreteStone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This two story brick building (40'x150') is located one-half block north of the Square, on the west side of N. Main. Constructed in 1923 as a Masonic Lodge and movie theater, it has been relatively unaltered over the years.

The facade of brown pressed brick with limestone trim creates the impression of a three story building, but it is actually only two, as the second floor has sixteen foot ceilings. The building is two lots wide and it features a three part storefront at street level: theater entrance in the center, with a small shop on each side. The three areas are separated by brick pilasters with stone bases. The central doorway features an arched opening of stone. Transoms above the large display windows and the arched opening are of prism glass. Above the theater entrance the upper level is treated with a variety of Neo-classical details. A stone balustrade runs across the facade, creating an effective division between the levels. The center of the second floor contains a large stone medallion with the Masonic insignia. On each side of this is a group of three windows, capped by volutes, and seeming to support a small window at the third floor level. A chain link patterned frieze at the cornice, and an elaborate date stone complete the detailing on the facade. Side and rear elevations are of common brick covered with stucco.

Exterior alterations appear to be limited to the installation of new entrance doors, and a triangular projecting marquee. Although this marquee is not original, it has been in place since the 1930s and should be retained.

The interior of the first floor reflects the three part division of the exterior. The central lobby extends back 60' from the entrance, with a small shop on each side. The shops are entered from the lobby, not the street. At the back (west end) of the lobby, the traffic pattern divides, with stairs on each side leading up to small balconies and the projection booth, and two doors on the main level leading into the theater proper. The theater incline slopes to the west. Some redecorating has been done, but wall sconces, etc. remain in place. From the lobby the north staircase leads to a broad stairway to the Masonic lodge. The second floor is dedicated to the lodge facilities.

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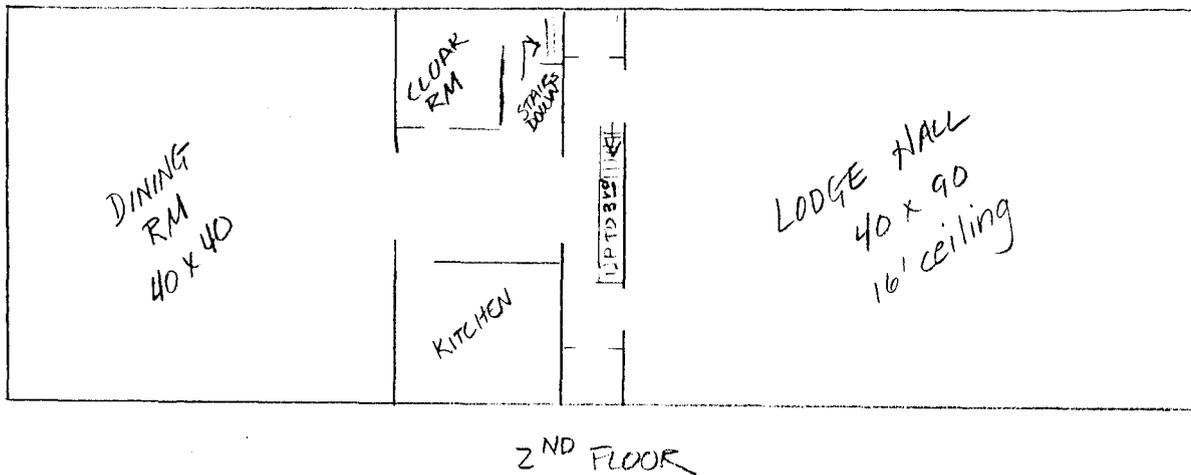
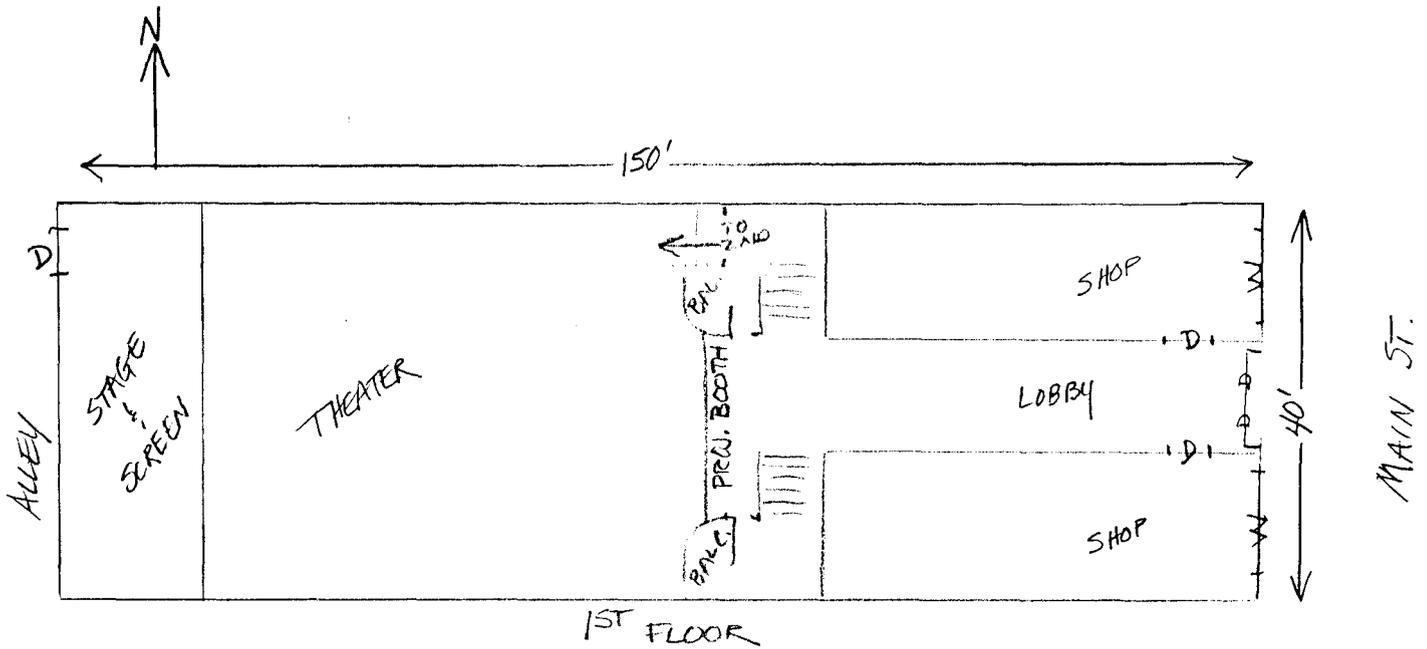
The stairs lead into a central area with cloak rooms, and kitchen. The west end of the building is completely taken up by the dining room, 40'x40'. The lodge hall proper is in the front (east end) of the building and measures 40'x90'. Ceilings in both the dining and lodge hall areas were originally sixteen feet. The area over the central hall and cloak room contains a small third floor storage area. A suspended ceiling has been installed in the lodge hall. From the third floor area you can look out over the ceiling and see the original plasterwork and the "third floor" facade windows. The second floor appears to be in unaltered condition. The woodwork, floors, and lighting have been unchanged for decades.

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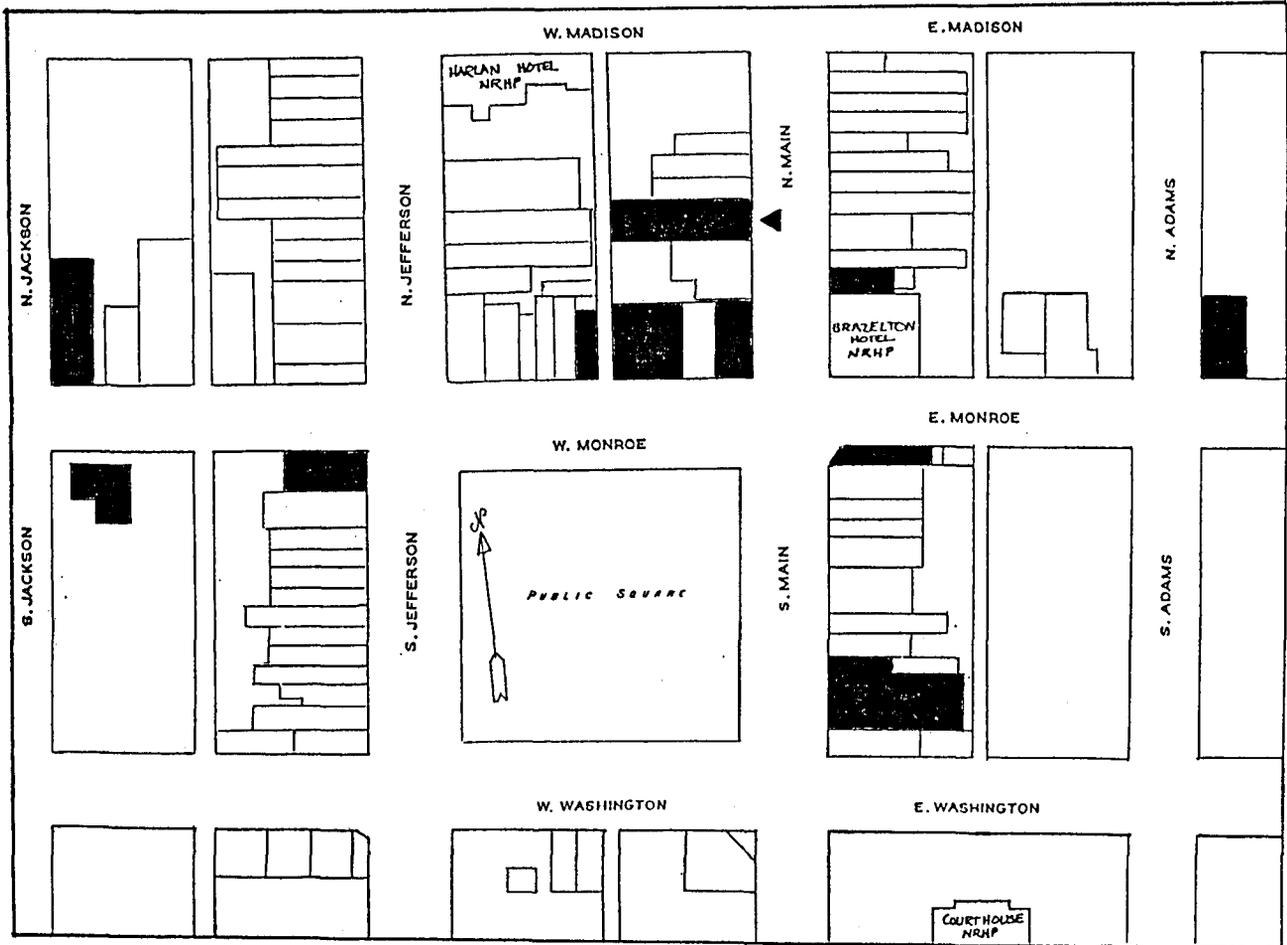


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MOUNT PLEASANT PUBLIC SQUARE

Shaded buildings are those being nominated.

▶ indicates specific building being nominated.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

<p>Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)</p> <p><u>Architecture</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Period of Significance</p> <p><u>1923</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Cultural Affiliation</p> <p><u>N.A.</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Significant Dates</p> <p><u>1923</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Significant Person</p> <p><u>N.A.</u></p>	<p>Architect/Builder</p> <p><u>Owen, Payson, & Carswell, Archt</u></p> <p><u>K.A. Bergdahl, Cont.</u></p>	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Masonic Temple Theater is significant under Criterion C as a very good example of a Type IV building, a Neo-classical design used for a commercial building.

Few commercial buildings were constructed around the Square in the 1920s, but two of them are outstanding examples of Neo-classical design: the First National Bank and the Masonic Temple Theater, both constructed in 1923, and both designed by architectural firms from outside Mount Pleasant. The Masonic Temple Theater, designed by Owen, Payson & Carswell, is a blending of use, commercial and fraternal. This is accomplished successfully on the interior by a strict division according to floor level. On the exterior, there is a blending of materials (brick and stone), and the conscious application of Neo-classical details to what could have been a straight forward commercial facade. The contrast of brick and stone, plain and elaborate, is carried out from top to bottom. Neo-classical elements used on the facade include: the balustrade, medallion with Masonic insignia, volutes above the windows, ornamental frieze and cornice with date stone, and the parapet roof. This interest in Neo-classicism can be traced directly to the public buildings of the early 20th century, and the influence of the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

For decades fraternal orders (Masonic, I.O.O.F., A.O.U.W., K.of P., etc.) had taken pride in the erection of handsome buildings that would enhance their community as well as provide the needed lodge hall space. This approach continued into the 20th century. In the past, first floors had been rented as retail shops. The advent of the motion picture provided another candidate for that space. The combination of theater and lodge hall seemed fitting. An elegant design would be considered appropriate for both building types. In the case of the Mount Pleasant Temple Theater the first floor was actually paid for by the theater owner, while the Masons built the upper level. This double ownership continued until the Masonic Lodge moved to a new building in 1989.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Mt. Pleasant Weekly News, 9 May 1923
Program of the Dedication Ceremonies Attendant upon the
formal Opening of the Masonic Temple, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.
May 18-24, 1924

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References:

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--

D

--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

S 20' Lot 6 and N 20' Lot 7, Original Town, City of Mount Pleasant.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the area historically associated with this resource

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

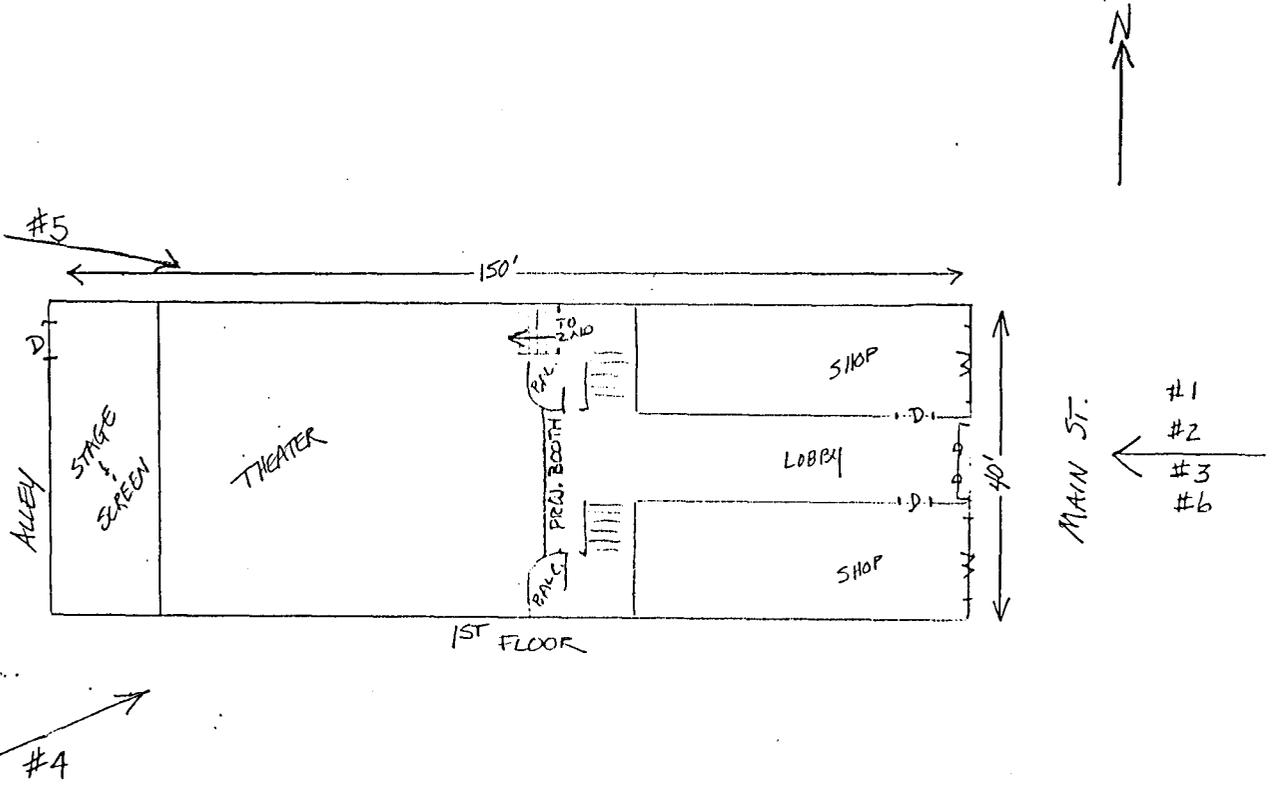
name/title	Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant	(515) 682-2743	
organization	City of Mount Pleasant	date	May 1991
street & number	City Hall, 202 W. Monroe	telephone	(319) 385-1470
city or town	Mount Pleasant	state	IA zip code 52641

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Owen, Payson & Carswell, Architects
K. A. Bergdahl, Contractor

MASONIC TEMPLE THEATER

115 N. MAIN

MT. PLEASANT, IA

HISTORIC PHOTO - 1924

General view of facade (east elevation)

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