

SPOKANE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Nomination Form

City/County Historic Landmarks Commission
Sixth Floor - City Hall
Spokane, Washington 99201-3333

OPR 91-774

Type all entries--complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Masonic Temple
and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number West 1108 Riverside Avenue
city/town Spokane vicinity of _____
state Washington county Spokane

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park	
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence	
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> object			<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> yes:unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: fraternal lodge	
		<input type="checkbox"/> no		

4. Owner of Property

name Masonic Temple Association
street & number West 1108 Riverside AV
city,town Spokane vicinity of _____ state WA 99201-1197

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse,registry of deeds,etc Spokane County Courthouse
street & number West 1116 Broadway
city,town Spokane state WA 99201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Landmarks Survey: City of Spokane
date 1979 federal state county local
depository for survey records Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office
city,town City Hall, Spokane state Washington 99201

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7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
		<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Masonic Temple is the third of five nearly contiguous buildings that stretch along the north side of Riverside Avenue at its curve west of Monroe Street. Spokane's Roman Catholic Cathedral is directly across the street. The Temple, monumental in scale, is a fraternal lodge done in Neo-Classical Revival style. It adjoins the Civic Building (Chamber of Commerce) to the east, and the Elks Temple (today, the North Coast Life Insurance Building) to the west. The imposing facade has a two-story colonnade consisting of nineteen bays, flanked by entrance pavilions. Expanded in 1925 from its original five-bay configuration, the exterior nonetheless retains the basic style elements of its 1905 design. The addition to the facade of new street-level entrances in 1971 has left the colonnade undisturbed but has altered its street-level appearance. Major interior spaces, dramatic for their scale and diversity, remain almost unchanged from both 1905 and 1925 construction periods.

Trapezoidal in plan, the building's facade, which includes a curve on its east end, extends 233 feet. The west wall extends approximately 140 feet between Riverside and Main, while the east wall is 83 feet. Three stories rise above Riverside Avenue, over a partially exposed basement level at street grade. The north elevation, on Main Avenue, rises five stories from street level. A flat roof of two levels is concealed behind the third floor walls and cornice. The building is constructed of stone and steel-framed reinforced concrete, and is faced with cast stone.

A projecting belt course defines the first floor level. Below, rectangular basement-level window openings are sealed with reveals still exposed. Above the belt course, and between the pavilions, are eighteen two-story high columns of the Corinthian order, flanked by half columns at the pavilions. The columns, linked by balustrades, create a loggia that extends six feet to the south wall. Stone framing separates paired rectangular single-paned windows from semi-circular transom windows with keystone arches. Slightly smaller second-floor windows repeat the pattern, but with transoms of radiating triangular panes. Between the paired windows are two-story pilasters that echo the Corinthian style of the columns. Above the columns, the main entablature is continuous with the pavilion entablatures. Decoration on the projecting cornice includes dentils, egg and dart molding, and

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modillions. The words "Masonic Temple" are incised in the main frieze. Above the entablature, a stone railing of piers and balustrades encloses a walkway at the third story level. Six feet back, the third floor walls enclose a full story on the east half, while the west half creates a false wall surrounding a second-story roof. Sealed rectangular window openings repeat the fenestration of the lower stories.

Two and one-half stories high, the pavilions at either end of the building have centered double entrance doors of oak with a large transom light above. The upper half of the doors have beveled plate glass; the lower portions have carved Masonic emblems in the panels. Door surrounds consist of pilasters, ornamental brackets, and entablatures topped with an ornamental crest. Narrow sidelights flank the doorway openings. At each pavilion, paired pedestals support cast stone busts of Senmut, an architect of ancient Egypt during the reign of Queen Hatshepsut. Above the portals are paired cast stone incense burners on tripod bases. Two entryways, with plate glass doors of contemporary design, are located below the colonnade.

The Main Avenue, or north elevation, faced in buff brick, is a simplified version of the Riverside Avenue facade. The first and second floors (third and fourth above street level) are recessed behind a colonnade of Corinthian columns resting on piers that are connected by a solid brick railing. Windows are large, and mostly double-hung one-over-one units with single panes topped by gauged arches with keystones. The exceptions are ten arched windows on the east half of the first floor level (three are filled in), and six fixed windows of coloured glass on the west half at the second-floor level. The third floor rises above a large, continuous entablature. At the street, or sub-basement level, are side-by-side arched entryways covered by a double-peaked canopy. The canopy is supported by decorative wrought iron brackets and trimmed with a painted cast iron crest. A cast stone sphinx on a pedestal guards the entry.

Originally constructed between 1903 and 1905, the Masonic Temple was approximately 100 feet long across its face (today's west half), and two stories high. The building was faced with Tenino sandstone, dry pressed brick, and terra cotta. The trim was dark, creating a contrast with its buff-colored brick surfaces. Four free-standing columns, creating five bays, were set between pedimented pavilions. Except for the new stone facing, the removal

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of the pavilion pediments, modification of the upper balustrade, and the relocation of the east pavilion, the 1925 extension echoes the features of the original facade. On the north elevation, an initially plain surface was embellished with the addition of a colonnade.

The addition of the two new entries with the 1971 remodeling altered the facade below the columns. One entry replaced a single balustrade section. The second, currently the main entry, replaced two sections.

Major interior spaces from both 1905 and 1925 are mostly intact. The entry on the west end of the facade, once the principal entry, opens to a vestibule with wainscoting of Washington marble. Marble stairs lead up to the first floor hallway past fluted oak columns. To the left, oak staircases lead to the second floor and basement levels. On the right, the Parlor looks out to Riverside Avenue through three large windows with peacock fan lights. Wood trim, painted ivory, covers angled surfaces up to a broad frieze. The ceiling's lines are partially masked by acoustical tile. The rooms beyond, once the Library and the Billiards Room, were remodeled for office space.

Down the hallway to the north, past a reception room and smaller room, is the Blue Room. The main Lodge Room before 1925, it is two stories high, with a gallery on the south and west ends, and a slightly raised stage on the east end. Done in an Egyptian motif, sixteen papyrus columns surround the room, supporting a painted frieze and coved ceiling with deep beams. Winged disc and palmette motifs painted in soft shades of rose, green, and gold are repeated on column, wall, and ceiling surfaces. The six clerestory windows are in harmonious shades of coloured glass.

East of the Blue Room is the Commandery, added with the 1925 expansion. Its theater decor is finished in a restrained Roman style. Also two stories high, with a balcony on three sides, the Commandery has a large stage on the east end and a projection booth and stairway to the balcony on the west end. The floor is of black and white tile in a diamond pattern, with a border. Pilasters separate wall panels at both first floor and balcony levels. The proscenium is flanked by paired pilasters with Ionic capitals. The deep cross beams of the ceiling are edged with dentil work. Doors are paneled mahogany.

From the entrance hall, the oak paneled staircase leads to the second floor. A built-in oak bench backs the

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staircase. To the south is the Rose Room Parlor (called the Chapter Room Parlor in 1905 descriptions). Overlooking Riverside Avenue, windows with painted wood panels below, and transoms above, are separated by plain pilasters. Above a plain frieze, a second frieze, decorated with low-relief swags, surrounds the room. There is a fireplace on the east wall where low-relief trim is repeated above and below a beveled mirror. Decorative mosaic tile surrounds the fireplace opening, repeating the curves of the swags.

To the east, a smaller room, done in similar style, leads to the Rose Room. Originally called the Chapter Room, or Eastern Star Lodge Room, this 60 by 40 foot room has a small stage on the east end, a raised platform on the west end, and five rows of benches on tiers along the north wall, behind a row of fluted columns with Ionic capitals. A continuous frieze is decorated with low-relief gold swags below an elliptical coved ceiling. Against off-white walls, all three rooms are painted with gold, green, and deep rose trim.

The single major third-floor room, the Drill Hall, is plain, with a smooth-finished concrete floor. Its structure, in the form of brick and stone walls, and steel trusses supporting wood beams, is exposed. A simple wooden stage extends from the east wall.

At the basement level, on the northwest side, is the Ballroom. Enlarged from a depth of 36 feet to 60 feet with the 1925 remodeling, it has a polished maple floor. Across the east-west axis of the room, four square columns with plain capitals and bases support a central beam and cross beams. The walls are finished with panels, between a plain dado and frieze. The room opens to an exterior promenade.

The Small Banquet Room is one floor below the Ballroom, at the sub-basement level. This room was added as useable space with the 1925 remodeling when additional excavation and underpinning work was done. Its columns, beams, frieze, and dado repeat the features of the Ballroom. Pilasters break the otherwise plain wall surfaces. Chandeliers and sconces resemble lighting fixtures described in 1905 newspaper articles.

East of the banquet hall, a lobby with marble floor leads to the Auditorium. Capable of seating up to 2000, a continuous balcony surrounds north, west, and south walls. The stage is 45 feet wide and 31 feet deep. The black and

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white diamond field of the tile floor duplicates the style of the Commandery. Wall panels are separated by pilasters. Elaborate raised ornamental detail decorates the panels, the beams, and the friezes. Over the upper frieze, lighting is recessed behind shaped beams that cross a deeply coved ceiling. The room is praised for its acoustical quality.

Furniture of solid mahogany, purchased for the Temple in 1905, is still extant in several rooms. In the parlor, there are matching leather-covered chairs and sofas with claw feet. The Blue and Rose Rooms are each furnished with ceremonial pieces consisting of an altar, triple throne chair, and two single throne chairs. The Blue Room's tall-backed chairs and altar are embellished with carved designs. Each room also holds benches and side chairs of matching wood. A grandfather clock, the gift of Mrs. James Glover in memory of her husband, sits in the parlor.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance-Check and justify below		
--prehistoric	--archeology-prehistoric	--economics	--military
--1400-1499	--archeology-historic	--education	--music
--1500-1599	--agriculture	--engineering	--philosophy
--1600-1699	XX--architecture	--exploration/settlement	--politics/government
--1700-1799	--art	--industry	--religion
--1800-1899	--commerce	--invention	--science
XX1800-	--communications	--landscape architecture	--sculpture
	--community planning	--law	XX--social/humanitarian
	--conservation	--literature	--theater
			--transportation
			--other(specify)

Specific dates 1905, 1925

Builder/Architect

John K. Dow, Loren L. Rand
Archibald Rigg, Roland Vantyne

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Masonic Temple is a significant example of Neo-Classical Revival architecture. Considered one of the grandest fraternal lodge buildings in the west, it exemplifies the disciplined classicism that evolved from the Beaux-Arts movement and the influence of the Columbian Exposition of 1893. A principal structure in the Riverside Avenue Historic District, the Masonic Temple is representative of the City Beautiful movement as it was expressed in Spokane. Socially as well as architecturally significant, the building drew on the talents of many of Spokane's most influential and prominent citizens during its construction and development. It is a reflection of the importance of fraternal and social organizations to the fabric of the community during its growing years.

Originally completed in 1905, the Temple was the collaborative effort of two prominent Spokane architects, John K. Dow and Loren L. Rand. Dow, who practiced in Spokane from 1889 to 1937, is responsible for the design of several local landmark structures. Among them are the Great Western/Empire State building, the American Legion building, the Hutton and Mohawk buildings, Westminster Congregational Church, and the Gordon, Coolidge-Rising, and Paulsen residences. Rand, a Spokane architect between 1888 and 1933, is best known as the designer of Lewis and Clark High School. He was also the architect of numerous District 81 elementary schools. Clarence Hubbell, another well-known Spokane architect, was employed by Dow as his draftsman when the Masonic Temple plans were prepared. Though they were not partners at the time, Dow and Rand are given equal credit for the design of the Temple. It was Rand who supervised the construction and interior finishing details. There is suggestion that Dow may have played a key role in initial design. Another prominent figure in the construction of many Spokane buildings, Fred

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Phair was the building contractor.

In 1922, when plans to expand the Masonic Temple were announced, members of the Masonic Order were invited to submit ideas. Two proposals were ultimately considered; one by the architectural firm of Whitehouse and Price, and the other by the firm of Rigg and Vantyne. The Rigg and Vantyne scheme was chosen. Vantyne was put in charge of executing the drawings. Early plans indicated the building was to be faced in pale buff brick and ivory terra cotta, and its pavilion pediments would be retained. As completed, the building was instead faced with a cast stone supplied by a local maker, O. N. Wolf, and the pediments were removed. Except for the loss of the pediments, and the facing material with its contrasting tones, the addition, which more than doubled the length of the facade, maintains the principal design elements of the original structure.

Archibald Rigg, a native of Ontario and a graduate of Trinity College in Toronto, worked as head draftsman for the firm of Cutter and Malmgren for two years. He held a similar position with architect Albert Held. After working as an architect, designing public buildings in the east, he returned to Spokane, eventually forming a partnership with Roland Vantyne. The partnership was also responsible for the design of the Symons building. With the succession of Roland's son, Carl, the firm continued to operate as Rigg and Vantyne until the late 1950's. Carl Vantyne, who continued to practice architecture, was chosen to supervise the 1971 remodeling that included installation of new entries and elevators, and remodeling of office space and passageways.

In 1907, when the Olmsted Landscape Architecture firm was commissioned by the newly-created Park Board to draw up a plan for parks and civic improvements, the Carnegie Library, San Marcos apartments, Monaghan Statue, and the earlier version of the Masonic Temple were already in place. Work on Our Lady of Lourdes church was in progress. While the Olmsted recommendations pointed out the need for a Civic Center area, enhanced by park squares, boulevards, and street trees, the character of the Riverside Avenue Historic District was already taking shape. The 1925 addition to the Masonic Temple, like the evolution of the district itself, represents a harmonious progression. The building is particularly unique to the district because of its configuration. Already irregular to take advantage of the varying street depth, the building's shape assumed a curve, when its facade was

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extended, in response to the crescent of Riverside Avenue.

It is little surprise that many of Spokane's leading architects were Masons. The order traces its history back to medieval times when skilled craftsmen were in demand to help construct the great cathedrals. Evolving into a social organization that promotes brotherhood and humanitarian ideals, Freemasons acknowledge their beginnings through the use of architectural symbols such as the compass, square, level, and plumb. The 17th century rise in popularity of fraternal societies in England and throughout the British Empire, spread to America a century later. George Washington was the first of many United States presidents that held membership in the Freemasons society.

Spokane was an unincorporated town of a few hundred people in the winter of 1880 when a group of local men gathered to organize the first Masonic Lodge. James Glover, the "Father of Spokane" was one of the earliest members. Over the next decade, several other Masonic groups were formed. Outgrowing their Masonic Hall at the corner of Sprague and Lincoln, in December, 1901, the various Masonic bodies incorporated as the Masonic Temple Association for the purpose of funding and constructing a suitable building. As membership increased, three years of successful fundraising were marked by a series of important events. The purchase of a piece of land on North Riverside Avenue for \$5400 was followed by a groundbreaking ceremony on May 26, 1903, in which President Theodore Roosevelt, a Mason himself, turned the first shovel of earth. The laying of the cornerstone by Washington State's Grand Master of Masons took place October 6, 1904. The Temple was formally opened with great ceremony, in one of the social events of the year, on August 24, 1905. Membership in Spokane and the vicinity had grown to over 1200. Total expenses, including the purchase price of the land, and the cost of interior furnishings, was over \$100,000.

The overwhelming growth of Spokane's Masonic groups over the next two decades led to purchase of additional land to the east, at a cost of \$50,000 and the expansion of the building, representing an investment of \$300,000. Rededication of the newly-completed Temple building took place on June 6, 1925. The audience of nearly 4000 was addressed by the governor of Washington State and the president of Washington State College.

During the 1920's and early 30's, fraternal organizations enjoyed an unprecedented popularity, both in Spokane, and

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nationwide. The Masonic Order, in particular, included many nationally prominent government and business figures. The Masonic organization in Spokane counted among its members many of Spokane's most important civic and business leaders. Regional and national gatherings afforded members an opportunity to travel, and Spokane frequently was host to fraternal activities that drew visitors from around the country.

Over the years, the facilities have accommodated not only Masonic events, but community activities as well. For more than twenty years, starting in the mid 1930's, the Temple was the setting for Spokane school graduation ceremonies, as well as touring theater companies. Changing lifestyles, and a decline in the popularity of fraternal organizations, have led to the sale and conversion of numerous fraternal buildings. The Masonic Temple, however, continues to serve as a gathering place for its active membership. The Temple is also used for various community activities.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Durham, N. W. Spokane and the Inland Empire. Spokane, 1912
Edwards, Jonathan. Illustrated History of Spokane County. Spokane, 1900
Hyslop, Robert. Spokane Building Blocks. Spokane, 1983
Spokesman-Review, 1901-1971 (various articles)
Interview, Carl Vantyne, June, 1991

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nomlnated property approximately 1/2 acre

Glover's Addition; All of lots 31 to 34 & vacant strip S of & adjacent to lot 34, block 4; & also the W 22.5 foot portion of lot 35 including vacant strip S of & adjacent to lot 35

Verbal boundary description and Justiflcation

llst all states and countles for properties overlapping state or county boundarles

state

county

state

county

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sally R. Reynolds, Consultant, Planning & Historic Preservation

organization

date June 29, 1991

street & number 7015 East 44th Ave

telephone (509) 448-0311

city/town Spokane

state WA 99223

12. Signature of Owner(s)

Marion Temple Associates
Oscar H. Hillman
President

For Office Use Only:

Date Received: 7-2-91
Date Heard: 7-17-91
Commission Decision: Approved
Council/~~Board~~ Action: Approved
Date: July 29, 1991

Attest: Marilyn J. Montgome
City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

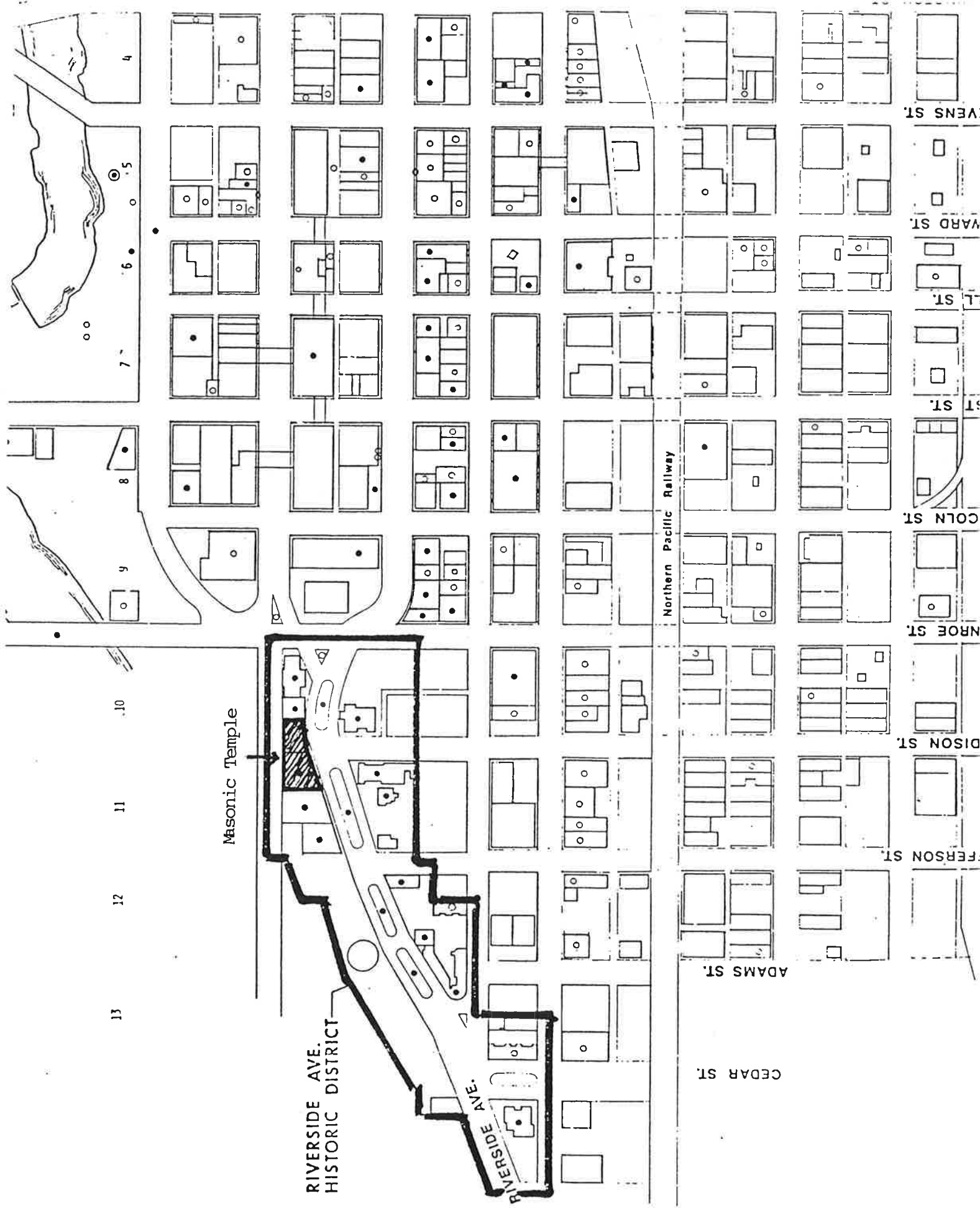
Stanley Schubert
Ass't City Attorney

We hereby certify that this property has been listed on the Spokane Register of Historic Places:

Sheri S. Barnard
MAYOR, City of Spokane or CHAIR, Spokane County Commissioners

Ron Wells
CHAIR, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission

Katharine W. Darrett
City/County Historic Preservation Officer



RIVERSIDE AVE.
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Masonic Temple

Northern Pacific Railway

ADAMS ST.

CEDAR ST.

10
11
12
13

4
5
6
7

8

9

14th ST.

15th ST.

16th ST.

17th ST.

18th ST.

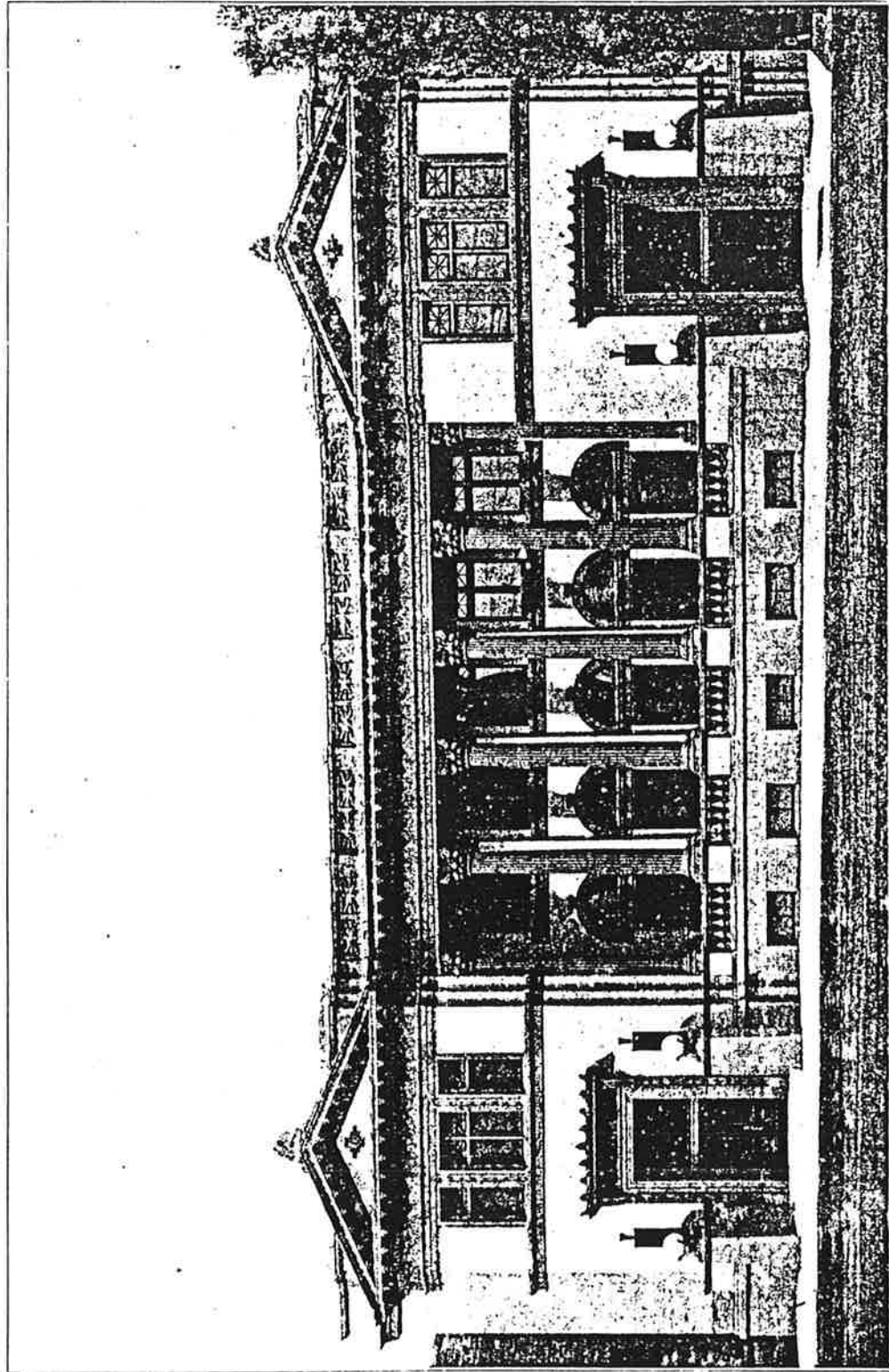
19th ST.

20th ST.

21st ST.

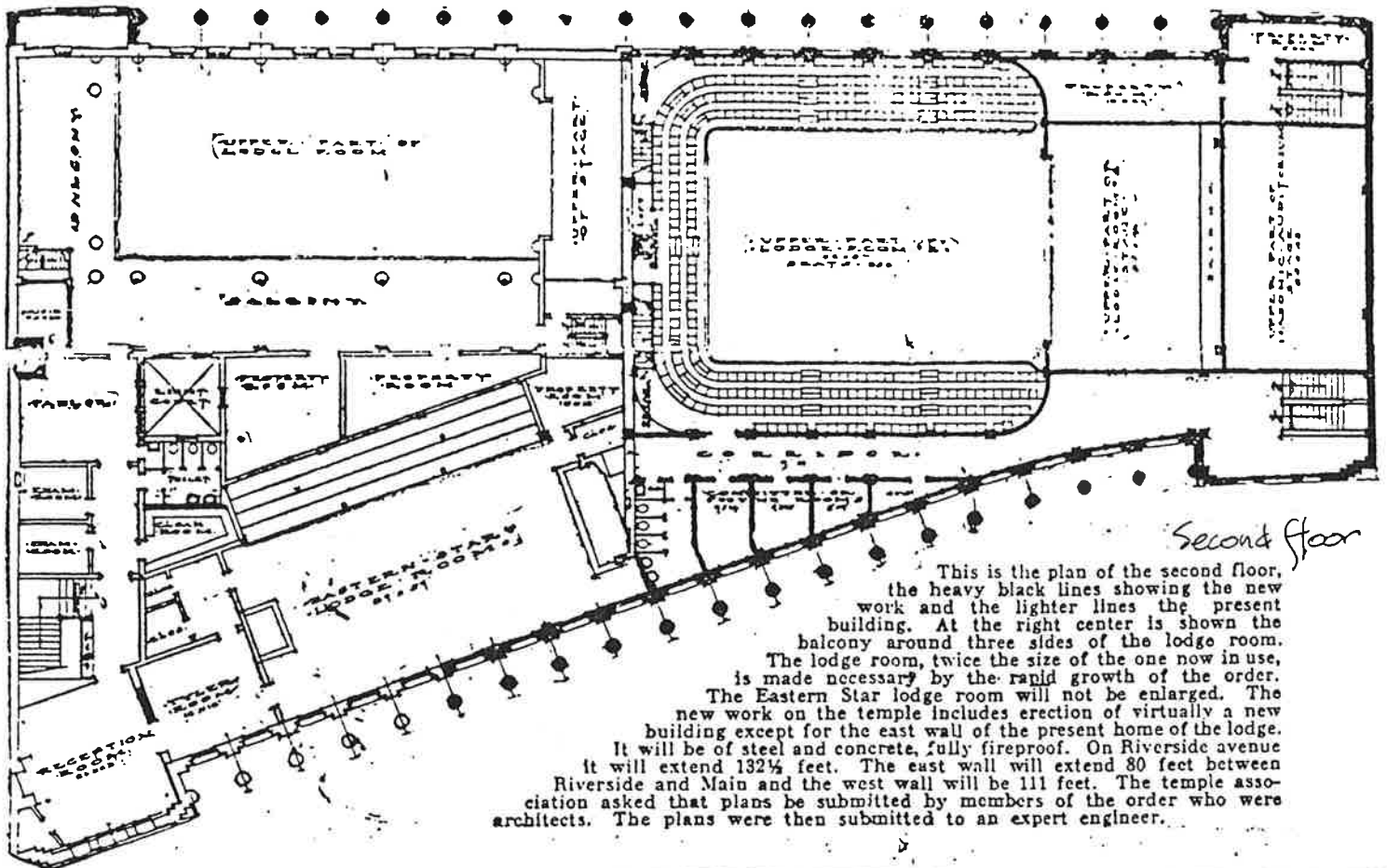
16-8-14

From the booklet
Spokane, the City Beautiful
Geo. W. Jones Co. Spokane
ca 1907 (p. 17)
Northwest Room Ephemera file

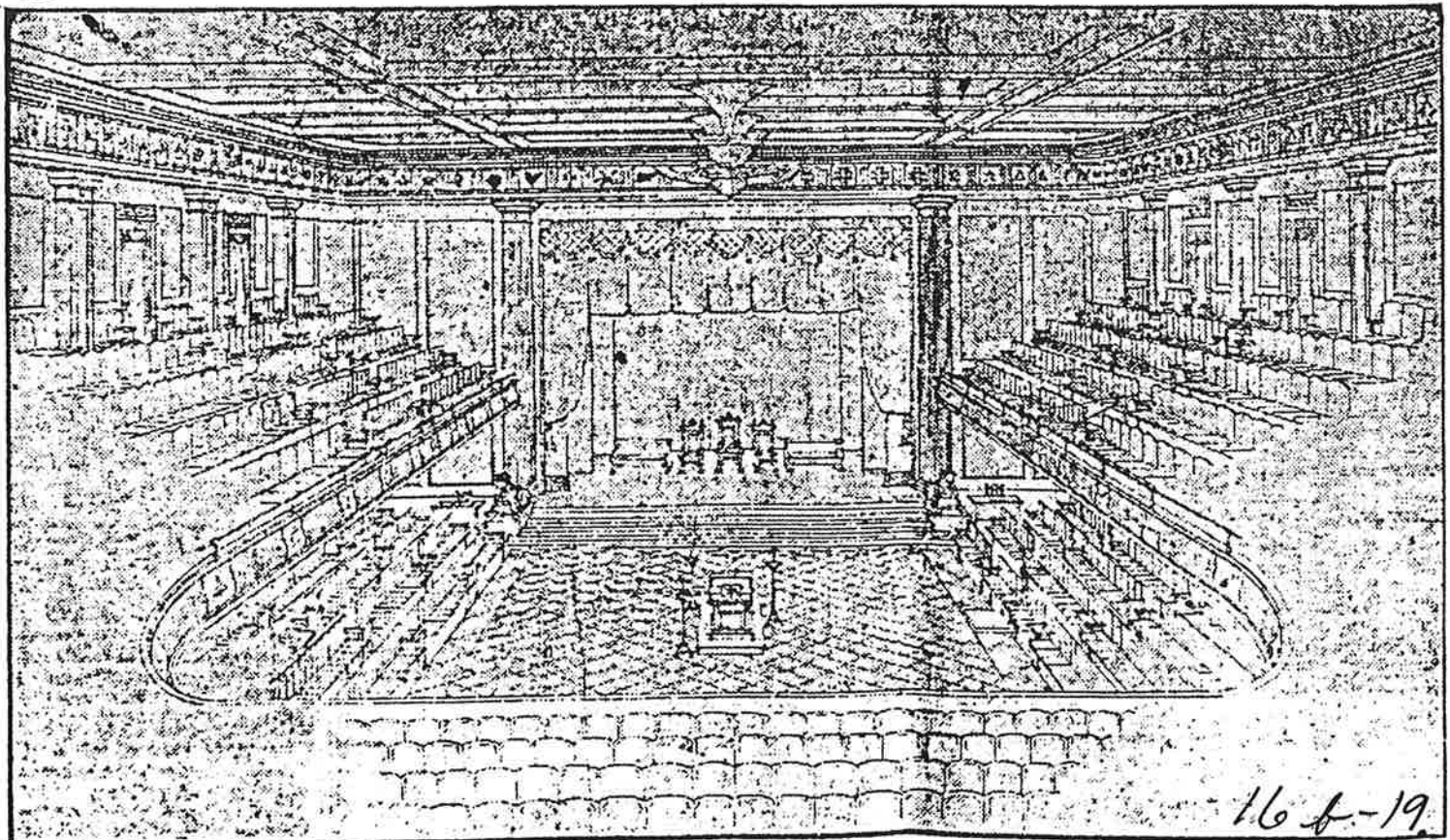


MASONIC TEMPLE.

One of the most beautiful buildings devoted to this order in the world.



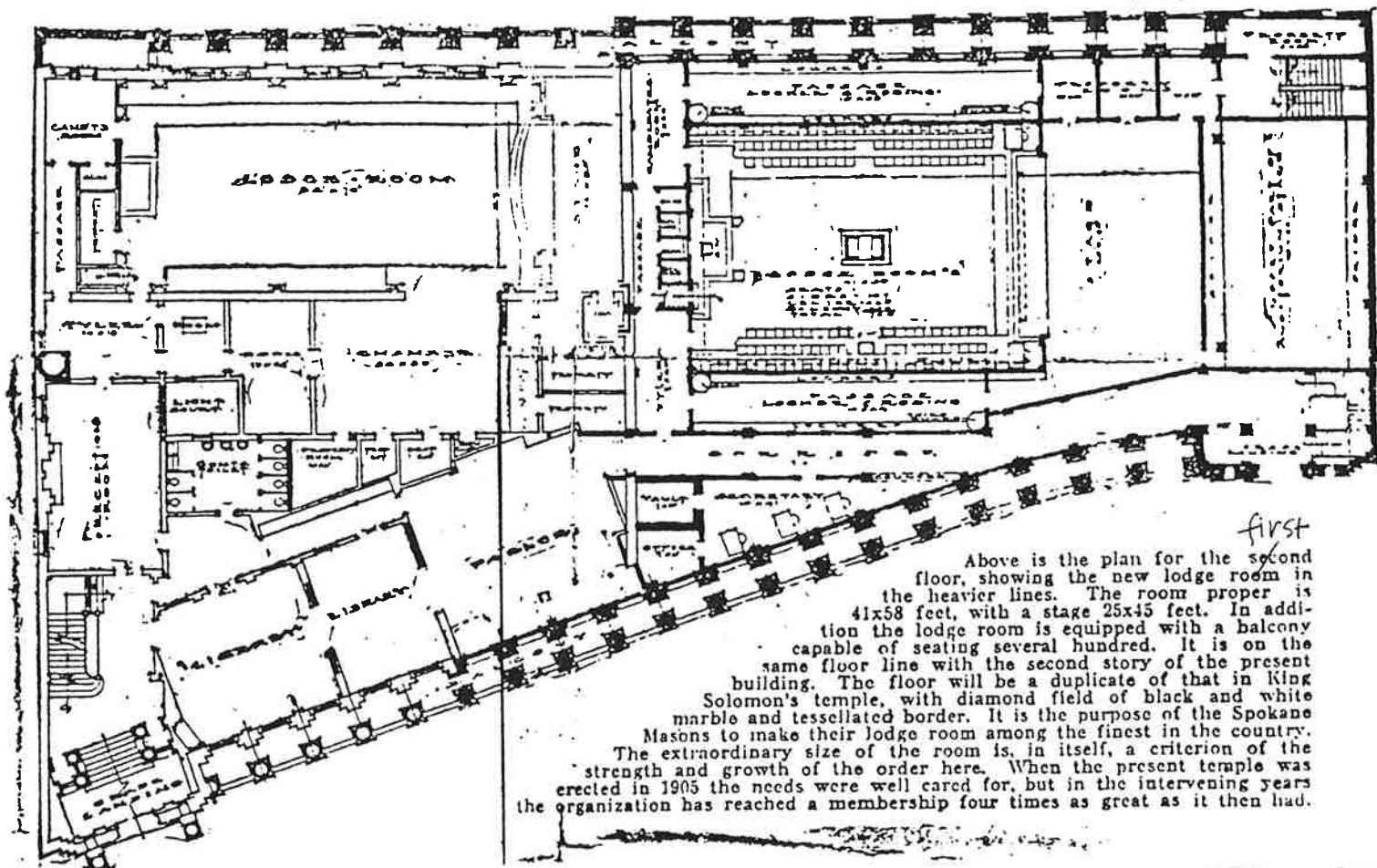
This is the plan of the second floor, the heavy black lines showing the new work and the lighter lines the present building. At the right center is shown the balcony around three sides of the lodge room. The lodge room, twice the size of the one now in use, is made necessary by the rapid growth of the order. The Eastern Star lodge room will not be enlarged. The new work on the temple includes erection of virtually a new building except for the east wall of the present home of the lodge. It will be of steel and concrete, fully fireproof. On Riverside avenue it will extend 132½ feet. The east wall will extend 80 feet between Riverside and Main and the west wall will be 111 feet. The temple association asked that plans be submitted by members of the order who were architects. The plans were then submitted to an expert engineer.



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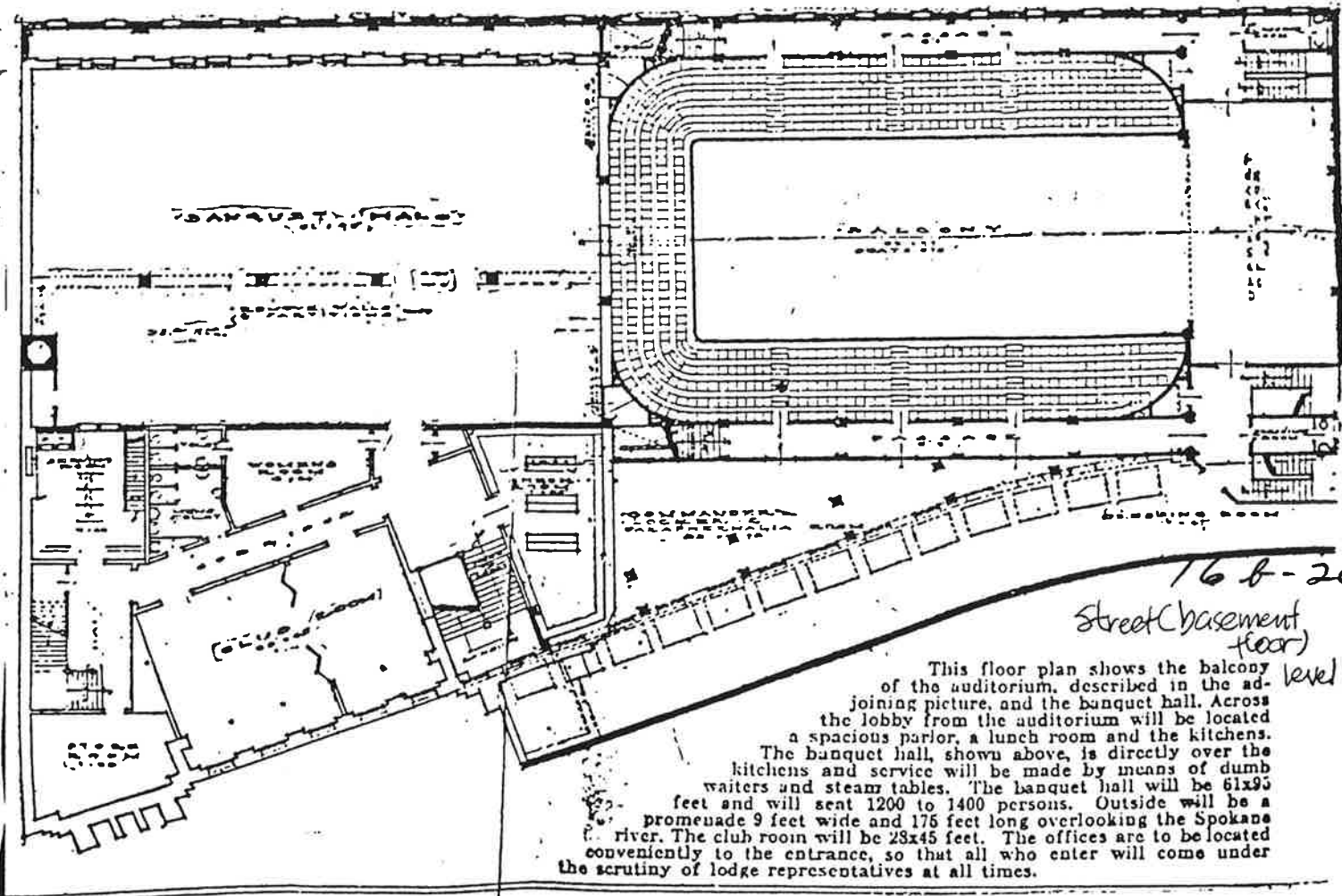
Here is a drawing of the interior arrangements of the auditorium, to which entrance will be made from Main avenue, street level without steps. The auditorium will seat 2000 persons and will be equipped with a pipe organ larger than any yet set up in Spokane. The pipes will be concealed. Entrance is by a lobby 15x62 feet. The auditorium will be 63x79 feet, with ceiling 31 feet.

The balcony seats 675. The stage will be 45 feet wide by 31 feet deep and the proscenium arch will be 25 feet. Acoustics have been carefully studied and no sharp angles are within the room. A corridor extends clear around the auditorium, permitting freedom of entrance and exit and safety. The auditorium will be for public use when not in service to the lodges. The Main avenue entrance will have elaborate and ample parking space available.



first

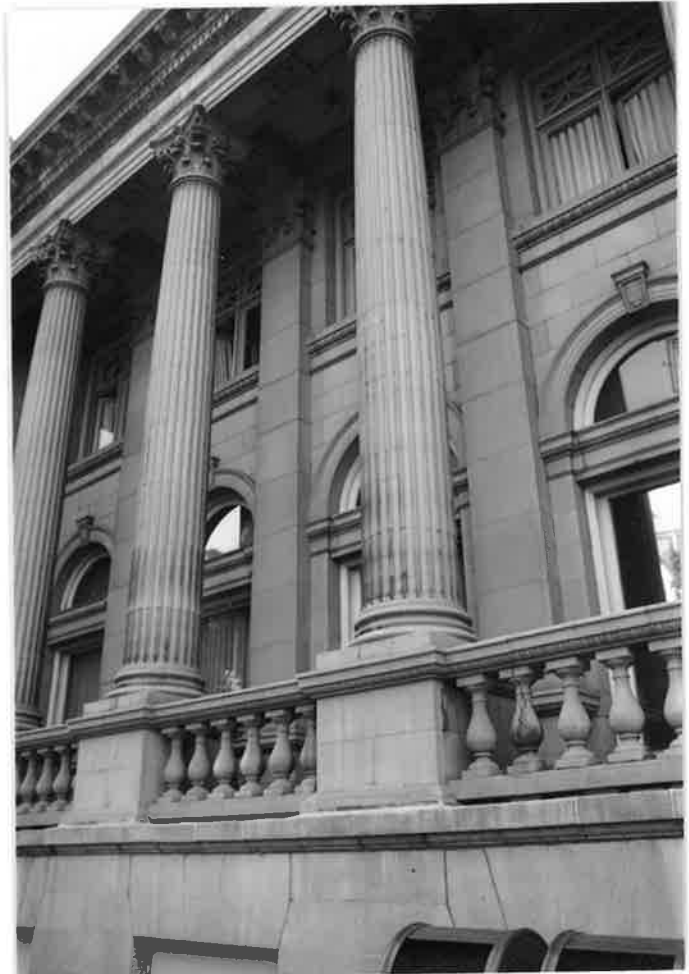
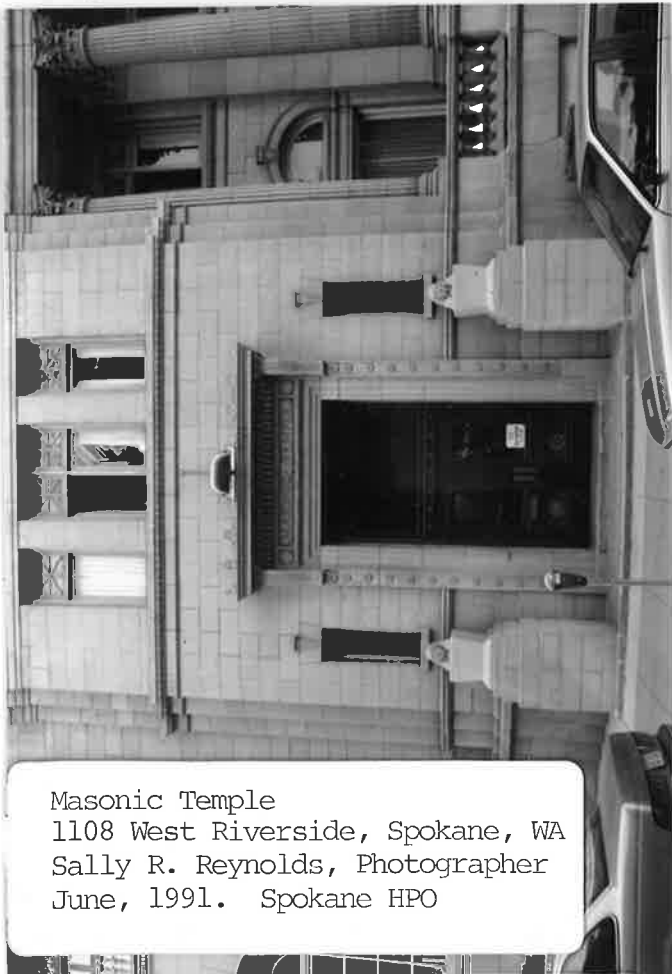
Above is the plan for the second floor, showing the new lodge room in the heavier lines. The room proper is 41x58 feet, with a stage 25x45 feet. In addition the lodge room is equipped with a balcony capable of seating several hundred. It is on the same floor line with the second story of the present building. The floor will be a duplicate of that in King Solomon's temple, with diamond field of black and white marble and tessellated border. It is the purpose of the Spokane Masons to make their lodge room among the finest in the country. The extraordinary size of the room is, in itself, a criterion of the strength and growth of the order here. When the present temple was erected in 1905 the needs were well cared for, but in the intervening years the organization has reached a membership four times as great as it then had.



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Street (basement floor) level

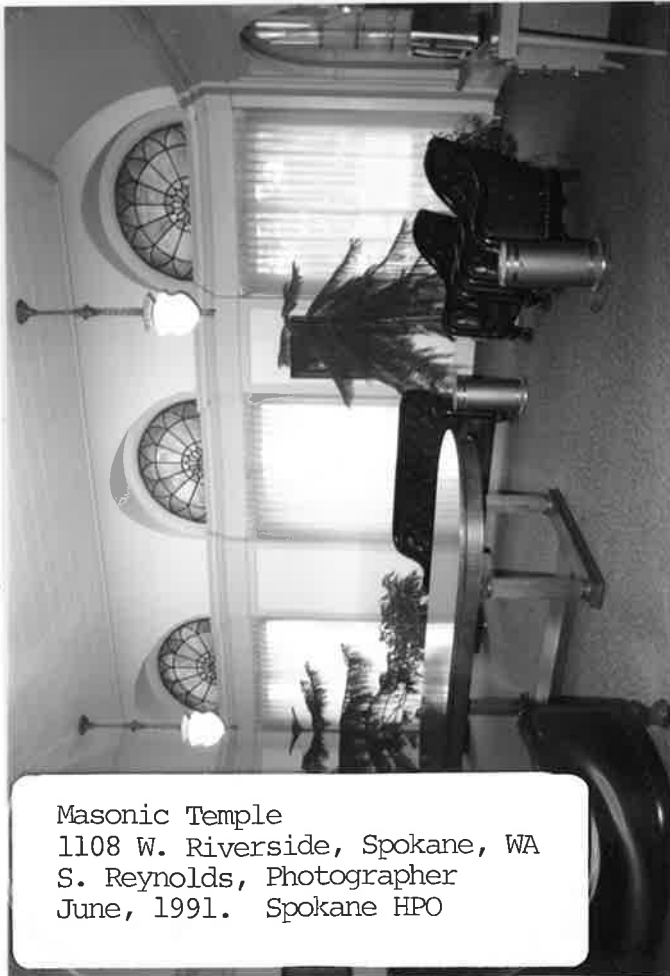
This floor plan shows the balcony of the auditorium, described in the adjoining picture, and the banquet hall. Across the lobby from the auditorium will be located a spacious parlor, a lunch room and the kitchens. The banquet hall, shown above, is directly over the kitchens and service will be made by means of dumb waiters and steam tables. The banquet hall will be 61x95 feet and will seat 1200 to 1400 persons. Outside will be a promenade 9 feet wide and 175 feet long overlooking the Spokane river. The club room will be 28x45 feet. The offices are to be located conveniently to the entrance, so that all who enter will come under the scrutiny of lodge representatives at all times.





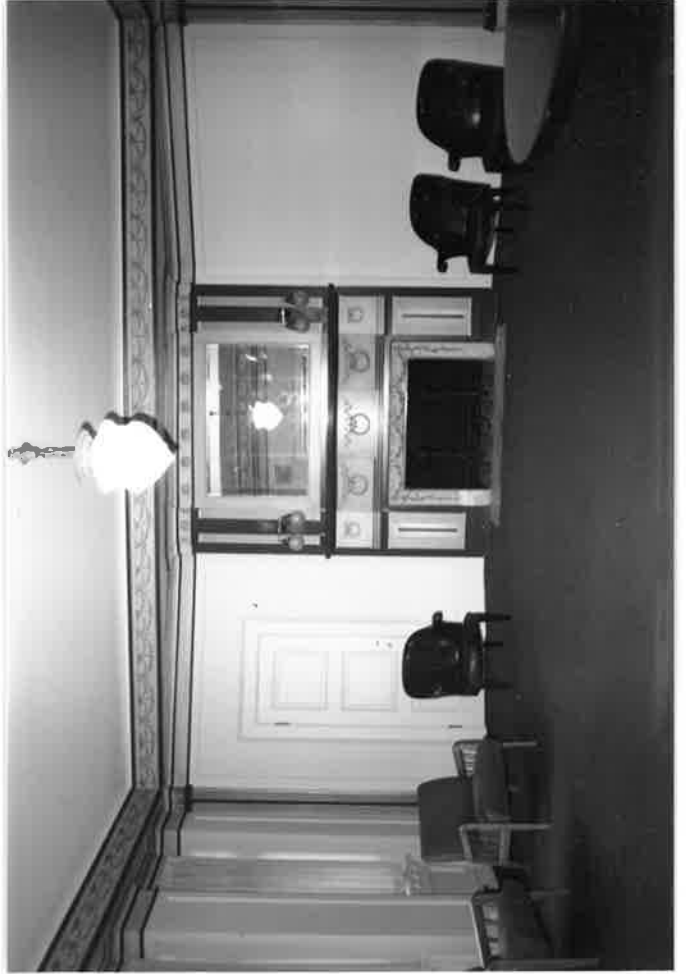
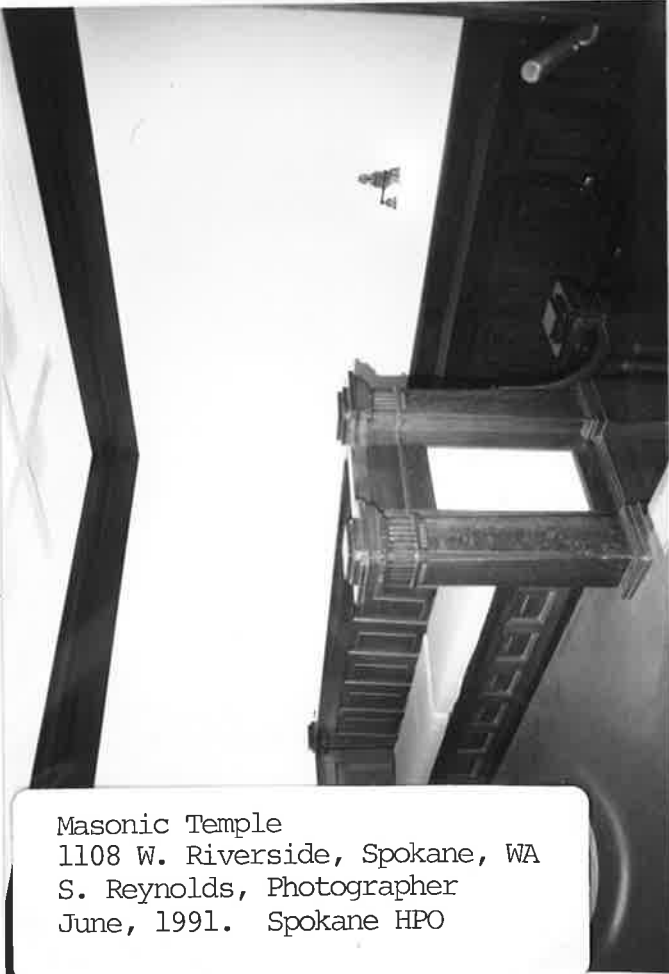
Masonic Temple
1108 West Riverside, Spokane, WA
Sally R. Reynolds, Photographer
June, 1991. Spokane HPO

0401001 4V-248-1138-14 106040

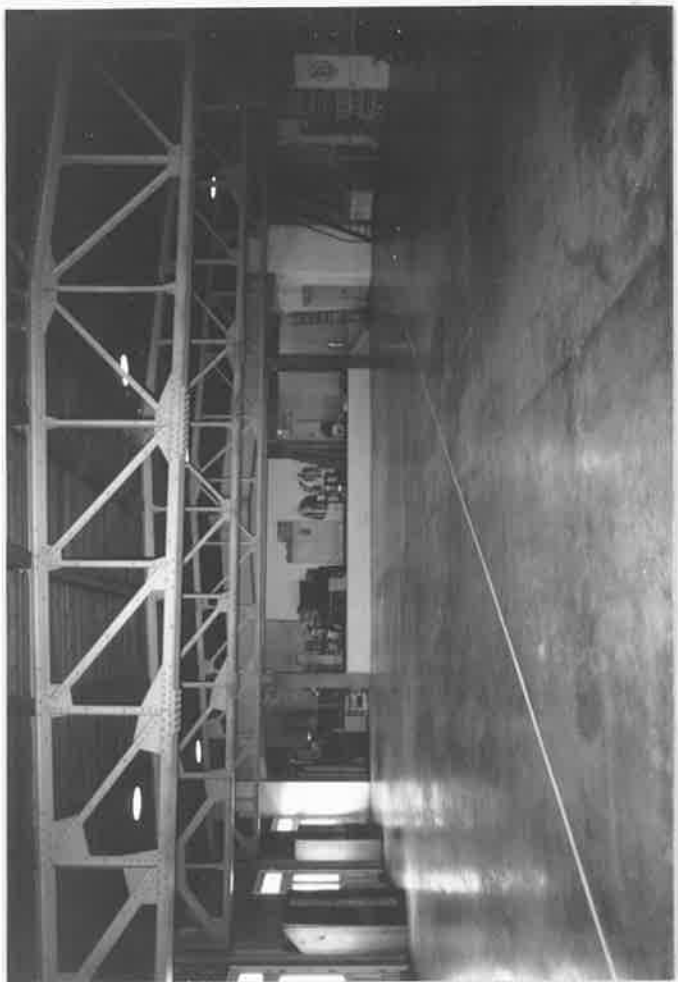


Masonic Temple
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Masonic Temple
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June, 1991. Spokane HPO



POLY PG 3-1/2x5-1/4 TOPLOAD
prinz STOCK 210-83

Masonic Temple
1108 W. Riverside, Spokane, WA
Sally R. Reynolds, Photographer
June, 1991 Spokane HPO

