

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

SENT TO D.O.  
4-6-05

**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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name **Collinsville Masonic Temple Lodge #712 A.F. & A. M.**

other names/site number **Collinsville Masonic Temple**

**2. Location**

street & number **213 West Clay Street** \_\_\_\_\_ Not for publication

city or town **Collinsville** \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity

state **Illinois** code **IL** county **Madison** code **119** zip code **62234**

**3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide  locally. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William L. Ahern 15 APR 05  
Signature of certifying official

4-1-05  
Date

**Illinois Historic Preservation Agency**

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_  
American Indian Tribe

Name of Property Collinsville Masonic Temple Lodge #712 A.F. & A. M. County and State Madison, IL

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):	_____	_____

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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      N/A

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

Name of Property **Collinsville Masonic Temple Lodge #712 A.F. & A. M.** County and State **Madison, IL**

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**Social – meeting hall**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**Social – meeting hall**

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

**Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals – Classical Revival**

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation **Brick**

Roof **Asphalt**

Walls **Brick**

other **N/A**

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property **Collinsville Masonic Temple Lodge #712 A.F. & A. M.** County and State **Madison, IL**

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

**Social History**

**Architecture**

Period of Significance      **1912-1955**

Significant Dates      **1912**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)      **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation      **N/A**

Architect/Builder      **Kennedy, J. W.**

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property **Collinsville Masonic Temple Lodge #712 A.F. & A. M.** County and State **Madison, IL**

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository **Madison County Courthouse, Edwardsville, Madison County, Illinois**

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property **Less than 1 acre**

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

1 **16 239942 4284446** 3 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

Name of Property **Collinsville Masonic Temple Lodge #712 A.F. & A. M.** County and State **Madison, IL**

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title **Mark Schusky**

organization **Collinsville Historic Preservation Commission** date **9/1/04**

street & number **412 Willowbrook Lane** telephone **618.344.9409**

city or town **Collinsville** state **IL** zip code **62234**

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name **Collinsville Masonic Temple Lodge #712 A.F. & A. M.**

street & number **213 West Clay Street** telephone **618.345.0712**

city or town **Collinsville** state **IL** zip code **62234**

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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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 **Collinsville Masonic Temple Lodge #712 A.F. & A. M.**  
**Madison County, IL**

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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

**EXTERIOR:**

The Collinsville Masonic Temple, Collinsville Lodge #712 A. F. & A. M., is located at 213 West Clay Street in the main downtown area of Collinsville, Illinois, immediately adjacent to the old city Post Office (currently the Collinsville Unit School District #10 Administrative building). The building sits directly across Clay Street from the current (newly constructed) City Police Station. The School District offices are to the Masonic Temple's east, a dentist's office sits to the Temple's west, and a vacant lot sits to the west of that building. The block in which the Masonic Temple is located is bordered by Seminary Street to the west and Clinton Street to the east, with the Masonic Temple located at the approximate mid-point on the block's north side. The neighborhood is a mix of residential, commercial, and governmental buildings, structures and functions.

The Collinsville Masonic Temple is a Classical Revival, red brick two-story building which resembles a Greek temple. Its front, or south elevation, has four unfluted Doric columns which support a brick entablature. The architrave is accentuated by projecting rows of brick and the frieze sports a blind arcade. Above the entablature is a red brick pediment which has at its center a Masonic emblem. The Doric columns, lintels, sills, and decorative features are all believed to be limestone. The columns rise the full two story height of the structure and rest upon a poured concrete porch. Between the center two columns, four steps with poured-concrete balustrade, lead to the porch and directly to the center entrance. The door is aluminum with sidelights and a transom light. The entrance surround consists of two brick pilasters, each with a globe light fixture, supporting a frieze with the word "Temple" incised across it. . At the top of the frieze, a denticulate molding is the base for a simple cornice.

The front façade fenestration is three ranked: three windows with transoms are on the second level and two windows without transoms are on the first level, divided by the front entrance. The windows have simple flat lintels and sills. One-over-one sash windows have replaced the original twelve-paned windows. The moderately pitched gabled roof of the structure has a slight overhang. Three exhaust vents are located on the peak of the shingled roof.

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The lot itself slopes down gently from the front to the rear exposing slightly more of the foundation in the back of the building. Both the east and west sides of the building have ground level window sills, though the windows are now closed, covered in wood.

The fenestration on the east and west walls of the structure are divided by five equally-spaced decorative brick pilasters, creating four bays. While both elevations are similar, there are slight variations in the fenestration. All of the windows are one-over-one, double-hung with segmental brick arches and sills. The taller upper-story windows have transom lights. The two medium-sized windows also have transom lights, though the smaller windows on this level do not have transoms. The windows on the east elevation, from south to north, are as follows. The first bay has a single window on either side of a smaller, paired window on the upper story and two windows on the first floor. The upper floor of the second bay has one transom-topped window; the first floor has one paired window and one single window. The third bay has two transom-topped windows on the upper floor and two on the first floor, and the fourth bay has one tall window on the upper floor and a door with a small concrete stoop and cast-iron railing on the first floor. There was formerly a transom opening above this door, though it has since been sealed with wood. The windows on the west elevation, from south to north, are as follows: the first bay has one single and one paired on the upper floor and two single on the first floor. The second bay has one transom-topped single on the upper floor and two single windows, on smaller than the other, on the first floor. The third bay has two transom-topped windows on the upper floor directly above two windows on the first floor. The fourth bay has a transom-topped window on the upper floor directly above a window on the first floor.

The north, or rear elevation has returns on the eaves and brick pilasters. Directly beneath the roof's peak is a round circle of rowlock bricks with what may be stone accents, resembling an ocular window. An exterior chimney with what is believed to be a stone cap extends through the cornice on the east slope of the roof. To the east of the chimney is a transom-topped window on the second floor, located directly above the first floor window. A transom-topped metal door with a metal fire escape is located on the west side of the upper floor. A window is located directly beneath this door.

The original (six over six) windows have been replaced; the original ones were set in wooden sills and frames. The current windows are framed in vinyl. It is not known whether the larger windows originally had transoms. The original doors were of oak wood. They were replaced in



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1977. There is a metal door located in the north corner of the east wall, added after original construction, as an emergency exit.

INTERIOR:

The interior of the Collinsville Masonic Temple is comprised largely of the original construction. All of the walls throughout the interior are plaster; all of the trim, window surrounds and doors are stained wood, unless noted otherwise for specific rooms in the Masonic Temple. The only significant structural change that has occurred since 1912 is the main staircase leading from the ground floor to the second floor. The original staircase was destroyed by a fire on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1939.

The main room on the first floor is the first area accessed from the main entrance on the south wall. The room is dominated by the staircase which is on axis with the front door. The flooring is tiled in linoleum with a black and cream checkerboard pattern. There are wooden baseboards throughout the room. The plastered ceiling is painted white. Two windows grace the south, east, and west walls. There are two radiators on the south wall and two on the north wall. There is a "dummy" fireplace in the middle of the west wall, part of the original construction that has never been functional. The fireplace, lacking a flue, is made of brick and has a wooden mantle. An entryway in the north wall of this room leads to the rest of the ground floor. A door in the northeast side of the staircase leads to the basement. The staircase itself is wooden, with the treads covered in protective plastic tile sheeting. The dog-leg stairway has an open string; the balusters are square in section. The columns on either side are square in section and extend to the ceiling. The first two steps on the first floor landing are rounded. Ten steps lead from the ground floor to a landing, extending upwards from south to north. These steps are accentuated by decorative carved scrolls located on the carriage. Seven steps then lead from the landing to the second floor, from the north to the south. The railings, like the stairs themselves, are all wooden and stained. A handicapped-accessible chair has been added to the staircase on both flights.

Immediately to the north of this main ground floor room is a short hallway leading to the rest of the building's first floor rooms. A door in the east side of this hallway leads to the Secretary's Office. This room has a white dropped ceiling and a tile floor. Two small windows are located in the east wall of this room, and a radiator also sits on this east wall.

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Just to the north of this room another doorway leads from the hallway off to the west. This room is the Women's Lounge for the Masonic Temple. The door leads into a pink-carpeted area. It contains white wooden baseboards. Immediately through the door, another door is located to the south. This opens into a tiled bathroom with modern fixtures. A wall immediately through the main door into this room creates a hallway. An opening to the immediate northwest leads to the main area of this room. Both a window and a boiler are located in the west wall. A doorway on the southwest corner of the room leads to another bathroom, also tiled and also containing modern fixtures.

Continuing from the main hallway to the north, three steps lead down into a large kitchen and dining room area. This room is entirely tiled in brown and cream checkerboard flooring. The ceiling throughout this room is a drop white tile ceiling. Modern tables and chairs are located throughout. The bottom one-third of the wall is painted a brown shade, while the top two-thirds are painted cream. A metal door (painted brown) is located in the northeast corner of this room on the east wall. Three windows are located in the west wall, two windows are located on the north wall, and one window is set in the east wall of the dining room. Two small windows are also set in the east wall of the kitchen area. The window sills are painted brown. A small, outset closet is located in the center of the north wall; this contains the air conditioning system. The kitchen itself is located in the southeast corner of this room. A radiator is located against the east wall, and another radiator is in the northwest corner of the room. These radiators are of metal and painted white. A storage cabinet, wooden and painted white, is located in the southwest corner. A wall of cabinets borders the north edge of the kitchen. An entry-way between these cabinets exists for entry from the dining room into the kitchen on the northwest corner of the kitchen area. The kitchen contains modern cooking accoutrements, including ovens, stoves and sinks. Cabinets are also located against the west side of the kitchen area immediately to the south of the entryway.

The second story is accessed from the main staircase on the south side of the building. From the ground floor, the stairs lead up to a small area on the second floor that is covered in blue carpet. A window is located on the south wall. Wooden baseboards are located throughout. The walls are cream-painted. A door to the west of this room leads to a storage closet. A door to the east of the room leads to a bathroom. An entryway leads from the northeast corner of the room to a hallway.

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The bathroom on the southeast corner of the second floor has ceramic tile on the floor. Modern fixtures are located throughout.

A door from the hallway leads to a sitting room or antechamber. This room has a window in its southwest corner. A door on the west wall in the southwest corner of the room leads to a stairway and entry to both a balcony overlooking the Grand Lodge Room and the attic. A door located in the north wall of the room leads to the Grand Lodge Room. An entryway on the northwest corner of the room leads to another hallway, which is carpeted.

The hallway leading from the northwest corner of the antechamber runs east and west. A closet door is located in the south wall of this hallway and a cabinet serves as additional storage area to the west of this closet. A doorway on the west end of this hallway leads into a small room. The walls and ceiling are all plaster, painted white, and the floor is carpeted.

This room has a window on the west wall and a boiler on the northwest corner. Two doors are located in the south wall of this room. The door to the southeast leads to a small hallway; the door to the southwest leads to a storage closet. The floor is carpeted. The hallway has doors on both its south and west walls; both lead to additional storage closets. All closets have wooden walls, unpainted, and wooden flooring.

The northern half of the second story contains the Grand Lodge Room, entered or exited by a door in the southeast corner of this room. This door opens into a large and expansive space with high ceilings. A wooden chair rail runs the perimeter of the room. Four windows are located on both the east and west walls and two windows are located on the north wall. The flooring throughout the entire room is covered in blue carpet, laid in 1994. A two-step raised floor provides seating along the east and west walls. A two-step dais is flush with and centered against the south wall. A three-step dais is located on the north wall. Two Ionic fluted columns are located on either side of both daises, though these do not extend to the ceiling. Two radiators are located against both the west and east walls; another radiator is located against the north wall to the west of the dais. A metal door leading to a fire escape is located next to this radiator, directly under a window. All wood-work in the room is of oak, including the four Lodge Officers' chairs, which are also covered in red fabric. Three of these chairs are located on the north wall on the dais; one is on the south wall's dais. The ceiling of this room is covered with acoustic white tiles; the original ceiling in this room is pressed metal. These acoustical tiles were

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adhered directly to the original ceiling. There are six large light fixtures located in the ceiling; three run down the east side of the room and three are located along the west side of the room. These fixtures are made of plaster molding, painted green, of a classical ivy design. Each fixture contains a main glass light, inlaid with metal, located in the ceiling. Each of these main fixtures is surrounded by four additional light fixtures which descend several feet down from the ceiling. These lamps are attached to the ceiling by metal chains; the lamps hanging at the bottom of these chains are round glass globes. Other plaster moldings of the green, ivy design run across the ceiling throughout the Grand Lodge Room.

The south wall of the room contains a wood-paneled balcony overlooking the expansive space. This balcony, immediately over the dais on the south wall of the Grand Lodge Room, is accessed from a staircase in the antechamber. This staircase is wood covered in blue carpet. The balcony itself is graced by painted, plaster walls and a carpeted floor. Theater seats are located here, overlooking the Grand Lodge Room, behind the balcony wall. The cove (or balcony) is original; the cove molding is canvas and covered by plaster. Another staircase leads from the northeast corner of this balcony room to the attic.

The attic has brick walls and the framing and joists are all the original wooden construction. Formerly a storage area, this attic space now chiefly serves to store the duct-work for the HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) system. This HVAC system replaced a large window fan. The original heating system of the building is still in use, utilizing hot water heat. While the boilers have been replaced, the radiators are original.

The basement of the Temple is made entirely of brick walling and brick, concrete, or dirt floors. The stairs descending from the ground floor are made of wood. The basement itself was originally two separate unconnected rooms, one located on the north side of the building, one room on the south. Later, to provide easier access, a tunnel was dug connecting these two basement rooms. The tunnel has a dirt floor and holes made in the brick walls of both the north and south basement rooms are evident. The tunnel itself provides a view of the interior of the building's brick foundation; much of the space on the east and west sides of this tunnel is dirt and soil. The south room has brick flooring; the north room has a concrete floor. The north room contains the modern gas-fired boiler; a coal chute is located in the northeast corner of this room. Notably, when the tunnel was constructed, the members of the Masonic Lodge dug through an old cistern that had been located on the site. This cistern was sheaved into two

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OMB No. 1024-0018  
(8-86)

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pieces, much of it being destroyed; however, a large portion of this cistern still rests on the west wall of the dirt tunnel.

**Statement of Integrity**

The Collinsville Masonic Temple has sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register and has remained largely unaltered since its construction in 1912. On the exterior, only the front entry doors were changed and an emergency exit on the rear of the building was added. Historic postcards show the original two-over-three windows; the windows are believed to have been replaced in the early 1970s, but the original openings remain intact. The interior has retained its original plaster walls, wood trim and floor plan. The current staircase was built well within the building's period of significance.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Collinsville Masonic Temple is eligible for listing in the National Register under both Criterion A for social history and Criteria C as a good local example of Classical Revival architecture. The period of significance is from 1912, the year it was built, until 1955, the fifty-year cut-off for significance for the National Register.

*History of Collinsville*

Collinsville is situated on the ancient loess bluffs of the Mississippi River. These bluffs and the adjacent bottomlands attracted many early people long before Collinsville was here. This area's first occupants were the Paleo Indians who arrived at the end of the Ice Age over 11,000 years ago, hunting the mastodon and other large mammals. They were followed by the Archaic hunters and gatherers from 10,000 to 3,000 years ago, who also increased in numbers and began growing a few seed crops. The Woodland culture followed from 2,300 to 1,200 years ago and began to make pottery, built burial mounds, introduced the bow and arrow, lived in larger communities, and greatly expanded ritualism and agriculture.

The most prominent points on the Collinsville bluffs are Sugar Loaf Mound and Fox Hill Mound. They are conical shaped and rise to a height of over thirty feet. They are believed to be the work of the Mississippian Indians, the most dominant culture in this area from 1,200 to 600 years ago. The flood plain of the Mississippi is extremely fertile land and was the home of these mound building Native Americans who comprised the largest population and built the largest prehistoric community in North America north of Mexico. Today we call this community at the westernmost boundary of Collinsville Cahokia Mounds; this complex chiefdom was surrounded by numerous outlying towns and villages and farmsteads. More than 20,000 people were supported by corn and other crops grown in the fertile bottomland soil, the native mammal population, the fish, clams and crayfish which inhabited the oxbows and streams, and the birds which made this area their home and those which used it as a flyway on their northern and southern migrations. The Mississippian Indians disappeared about 300 years before the first European settlers arrived, leaving behind only the monumental remains of the mounds and the artifacts and bodies that they contain.

The early European settlers of this area were largely of German, French and British Isles extraction. The French came mostly from Canada and the others came, in most cases, along the

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National Trail from the Eastern, and newly formed, United States of America. These early Europeans were attracted to Collinsville for the same reasons the Native Americans were: the fertile soil, the abundant wildlife, and the proximity to streams and the confluence of the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.

In 1800 Ephraim Conner became the first American to settle in what is now Collinsville. Samuel Judy came the following year, settled on what is known as claim 338, and made the improvements as required by law in order to own the land. While the specific improvements are not known, he must have cleared the land, fenced some of it, and planted the area that he had cleared. Judy manufactured the first bricks in Madison County, and, in 1808, built the first brick house in Collinsville. By May of 1810, the area that became Collinsville Township was surveyed in the township, range, and section system.

The first land in this area was entered August 22nd, 1814, by John Turner. It consisted of 160 acres in section 25. In 1814 William Gillham entered 253 acres in section 8. In 1813, Abner Kelly settled under the bluff in the northern section of Section 20 near the Sugar Loaf Mound. "After the war of 1812, and treaties of peace had been signed with the Indians, [Collinsville] began to fill up. . . In a short time the rattle of the saw and gristmills was heard; the rude log and pole cabins of the pioneers were replaced with larger and more comfortable frame buildings; schools and churches were established; and a country that a few years before was a vast wilderness, inhabited only by wild beasts and the fiercer red man, was changed to a civilized and highly improved region." (*History of Madison County, Illinois* Edwardsville, Illinois: W. R. Brink and Co. 1882)

In 1817, three brothers, Augustus, Anson, and Michael Collins from Litchfield, Connecticut, purchased the premises of one John A. Cook. They immediately made improvements and soon erected a distillery with two stills – one of thirty gallons and the other of sixty – a frame house, a larger double-decked ox grist and saw mill, a cooper-blacksmith-wagon and carpenter shop, a tan yard and several dwellings. Here the real beginnings of Collinsville took shape.

"The town from its beginning had only a gradual growth until the building of the Vandalia railroad through here in 1868, which gave it a new impetus, and it soon became more prosperous. Her coal interests were soon developed and became an important factor in her business. Her beautiful heights were sought by citizens of St. Louis as suburban homes. . . .

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Collinsville became not only a mining and manufacturing place but a city of residences. In 1880 it contained 2,893 inhabitants." (*History of Madison County, Illinois*)

Other industries flourished in Collinsville. The city became home to the Blum Stock Bell Factory, which by 1900 was the largest livestock bell manufacturer in the world. In 1908, the Brooks brothers bought the Triumph Pickle factory (formerly the Collinsville Canning and Packing Company). The company, which was later purchased by G.S. Suppinger in 1933, became widely known for the manufacture of Brooks Catsup, a popular condiment.

After World War II, the coal mines closed as did the Blum Stock Bell and Brooks Catsup factories. With the loss of its major industries, Collinsville became a bedroom community for residents who worked in St. Louis, Missouri, or in various industries and businesses located on the Illinois side of the Mississippi.

### ***Fraternal /Social Organizations***

Collinsville was home to several fraternal and social groups. The Masons were among the first to organize here, establishing a lodge in the early 1870s. Beginning in the 1900s other social organizations were founded. The Loyal Order of the Moose established the first Moose Lodge in Collinsville on July 18, 1913. Another club initiated around the same time as the construction of the Masonic Temple was the Collinsville Lion's club, chartered in February of 1923. The Lion's Club was the first service organization established in Collinsville. One of the earliest fraternal organizations to be locally organized was the Alpina Dogali club, a social and civic group celebrating Collinsville's Italian heritage. Shortly thereafter, the Collinsville Women's Club was chartered on February 9, 1906, as the Collinsville Study Club. Affiliated with the Illinois Federation and General Federation of Woman's Clubs, this group was also instrumental in forming the Friends of the Collinsville Historical Museum. Later fraternal organizations included both the Collinsville Jaycees, founded in March 1952, and the Collinsville Kiwanis Club, organized on August 20, 1952. The Collinsville Masons, as noted previously, purchased the land on which they built their Temple from the pre-existing International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) fraternal organization. These groups all fostered a sense of civic involvement and community service in Collinsville's social history. Today, while most of these fraternal organizations have remained active in Collinsville, only the Masons remain meeting in one of their original early meeting halls. While the original building of the International Order of the



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Odd Fellows still stands on Main Street, the IOOF Chapter no longer meets there. Thus, the Masonic Temple is unique in this aspect of Collinsville's fraternal organizational history.

*The Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (A.F. & A.M.)*

The main objectives of the Masons fraternal organizations are to celebrate a belief in God and to lead to a better life. This mission has not changed since its founding in 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century England. Originally the masons were a group of stonemasons, who banded together to pass on their knowledge of their trade to its members and to impart moral guidance. Masons began accepting those who were not stonemasons as members of their organizations as the need for builders decreased. Since their founding, numerous lodges have formed in England and in the United States. Today there are about 600 lodges in Illinois today alone. The Masons are also very involved in charity work. The Masons in Illinois maintain a Children's Home, Shriner Hospitals, a Home for Masons and their widows, and many other programs dedicated to promoting the well-being of young people in the state (Buford, p. 9).

*Collinsville Masonic Temple Lodge #712 A.F. & A. M.*

The first organization of the Masons in Collinsville occurred in 1872 when members of Masonic Lodges #576 (O'Fallon, Illinois), #588 (Troy, Illinois), and #504 (East District, Illinois) residing in Collinsville asked to form a Masonic Lodge in their hometown. On September 12, 1872, The Most Worshipful Grand Master of the State of Illinois granted dispensation to create a Collinsville Masonic Lodge. The original officers at that time were First Master Job L. Chapman, First Senior Warden William H. Courtney, and First Junior Warden Wilson Penny.

During the first nine years of the Lodge's existence, meetings took place in a hall rented from Mr. J. Mersinger at an unknown, unrecorded address. In 1882, a new hall was leased for Masonic meetings; discussions began at a meeting on March 4, 1890, that a permanent building should be constructed to house the Collinsville Masonic fraternity. At that March, 1890 meeting, Collinsville residents and Masonic brethren W. C. Hadley, A. J. Platt, D. W. Jones, J. H. B. Willoughby, and William Fletcher were all appointed to a committee to study the issue of finding a permanent home for the Collinsville Masons.

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Collinsville Lodge #712 A.F. & A.M. purchased land for its building on West Clay Street from W. C. Carter and his wife Clemmie P. of Pasadena, California, on October 21, 1911. The Carters were formerly residents of Grinnell, Iowa. The property purchased included lots 8, 9, and 10 in block 12 of Edgar's First Addition. The purchase price was \$5,000 but was subject to an easement on lot 9 held by Madison Lodge #43, International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF). The IOOF Lodge had been granted the right to place a tile under the ground on this lot to be used to drain the basement of their building on Main Street. (Book 358 Page 310 in deed books in the office of the Madison County Recorder of Deeds.)

This property on the northwest corner of Clay and Clinton Streets was known as Carter Corner. It had been in the Carter family since it was purchased by Henry J. Carter from Thomas S. Davis and his wife Richey A. on September 15, 1875 for \$4,300. (Book 124 page 614 in the deeds books.)

At an IOOF Lodge #43 meeting on October 21, 1911, the trustees of the Lodge were authorized to release interest in lot 9 to Lodge #712 A.F. & A.M. for the consideration of \$1.00. Since the time of the easement the City of Collinsville had constructed sanitary drains and sewers and the IOOF Lodge no longer needed the drain on the easement. Trustees of IOOF were A.J. Platt, Edward Ward, Henry Davis, and A. Talenski. (Book 377 Page 466 in the deeds books.)

On October 31, 1911, the Lodge #712 A.F. & A.M. voted to sell lots 9 and 10 to the United States of America for \$8,000. John B. Brusio was the Worshipful Master, Robert H. Presely, Senior Warden, Amandus C. Gauen, Junior Warden, and Roy W. Farmer, Secretary. The date on the Warranty Deed is November 29, 1911. (Book 378 Page 66 in the deeds books.)

Groundbreaking for the Masonic Temple was on July 30, 1912, and the cornerstone was laid on September 3, 1912. The building is of brick which was probably supplied by the Hydraulic Press Brick Company, once located and operated in Collinsville, Illinois. Buildings built of this type of brick are identifiable by the uniformity in the size of the bricks and the thin joints. William Field, former mayor of Collinsville, was the brick contractor. The cost of the building was close to \$15,000.

Some interesting events that have been held at the Masonic Temple include:

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The funeral of Dr. J. Morgan Sims was held at the Temple in August of 1917, the first funeral ever conducted there. R. Guy Kneedler, Worshipful Master, was in charge of the service.

On May 19, 1924, a banquet was given in honor of W.C. Hadley to celebrate his 50 years of membership in Collinsville Lodge #712 A.F. & A.M.

In February of 1927, funeral services for John B. Brusco were held at the Masonic Temple. Burial later took place in Jerseyville, Illinois. It is interesting to note that Brusco, a lumber dealer, served as foreman of the Coroner's Jury following the Prager lynching in 1918 in Collinsville, Illinois. Brusco was also a witness to the lynching. He had served in the Lodge as Worshipful Master when the Lodge sold land to the United States in 1911.

A fire ravaged the Masonic Temple on February 22, 1939. The total extent of the fire is now unknown to any current member of the Lodge. However, the major structural victim of the fire was the main staircase leading from the ground to the second floor. That staircase was entirely destroyed in the fire. The new staircase was rebuilt following the fire. Also falling victim to the flames were many of the records kept on file by the Masons themselves. Original architectural drawings, minutes of meetings, and other valuable and invaluable notes and records were lost amid the devastation.

The current Collinsville Masonic Temple hosts an active Masonic Lodge. Almost 300 active members participate in the organization's activities, including many charitable and community-based service functions. The Collinsville Masonic Temple Lodge #712 A.F. & A.M. helps support the Masonic Home in Sullivan, Illinois, which houses elderly Masons. The Collinsville Masons also fund anti-drug and alcohol abuse programs. Further charitable work by the Collinsville chapter of the Masons includes funding local community organizations, including school bands and the local historical museum, as well as supporting on-going Masonic charities such as Shriner Hospitals and the Coins for Children program. The Lodge itself hosts weekly meetings for its membership, maintains an organizational structure headed by a Lodge Master supported by many committees and officers, and functions as a social gathering place for its member Masons throughout the year. Its membership undertook a major project in physically maintaining the Temple in 2003 when it tuck-pointed the building, hiring a firm specializing in preserving historic structures.

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### ARCHITECTURE

The Collinsville Masonic Temple Lodge #712 A.F. & A. M is an excellent local example of the Classical Revival style. Classical Revival architecture was prevalent in the United States during the late nineteenth century through the mid twentieth century. It became popular after the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago which featured buildings inspired by classical architecture. The Collinsville Masonic Temple has several characteristics of the style, with the most prominent of these being the colonnaded porch below the front gable. This gives the building a temple-like appearance. Other features of the style include the dentils adorning the door surround and the emphasis on symmetry. The Masonic Temple is also the only example of Classical Revival architecture in Collinsville, Illinois. One residential home listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the D.D. Collins Home, does stand as an example of the Greek Revival style in Collinsville's architectural history, but the large-scale and Classical nature of the Masonic Temple sets it apart historically and architecturally from the Collins House. The Masonic Temple was identified in the Illinois Historic Structures Survey – 1974 and in the Historic Sites Inventory prepared by the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council – 1980.

NPS Form 10-900-a  
OMB No. 1024-0018  
(8-86)

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Section 9 Page 14 **Collinsville Masonic Temple Lodge #712 A.F. & A. M.  
Madison County, IL**

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Madison County, IL**

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Collinsville Masonic Temple is located on West Clay Street centered between Seminary and Clinton Streets in Collinsville, Madison County, Illinois on lot 8 of Block 12, Edgar's First Addition. (PIN# 13-2-21-33-08-201-006)

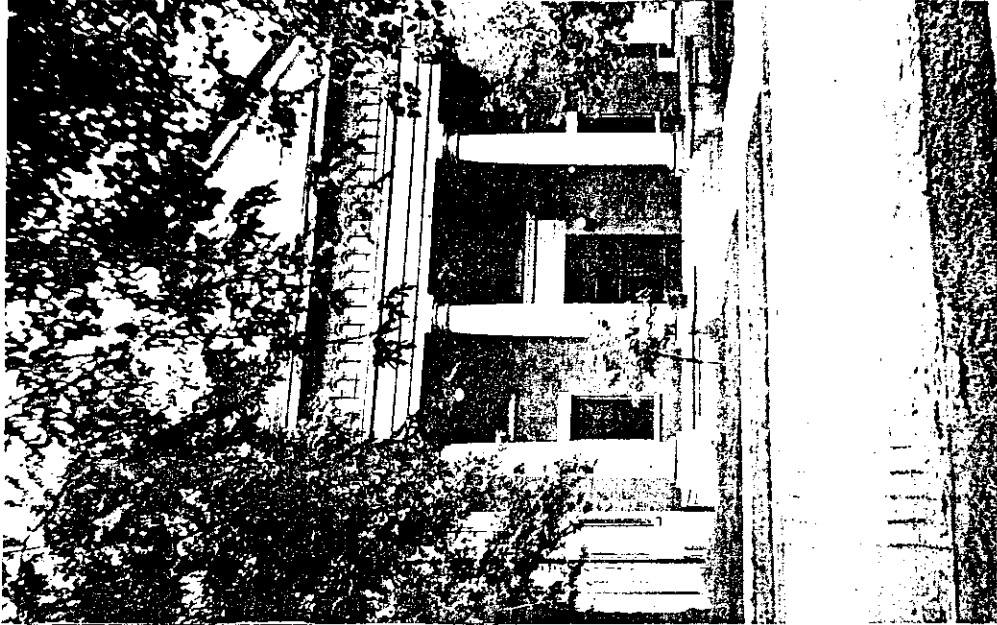
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the building and the lot historically associated with the property.

Postmarked 1913



*Postmarked 1928*



Masonic Temple Collinsville, Ill.

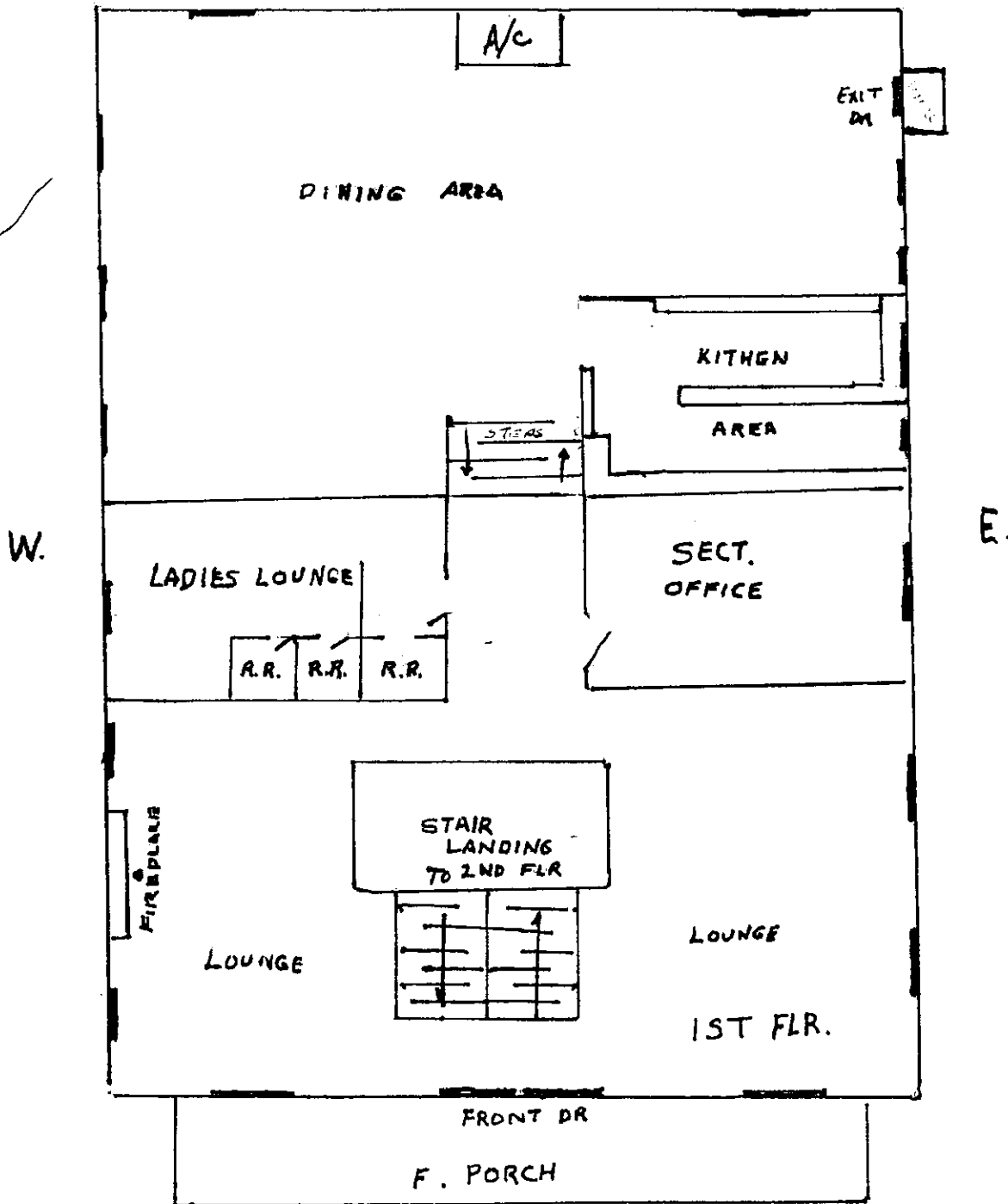
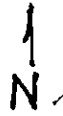


MASONIC TEMPLE, COLLINSVILLE, ILL.



MASONIC TEMPLE  
COLLINSVILLE IL.

JAN. 2005

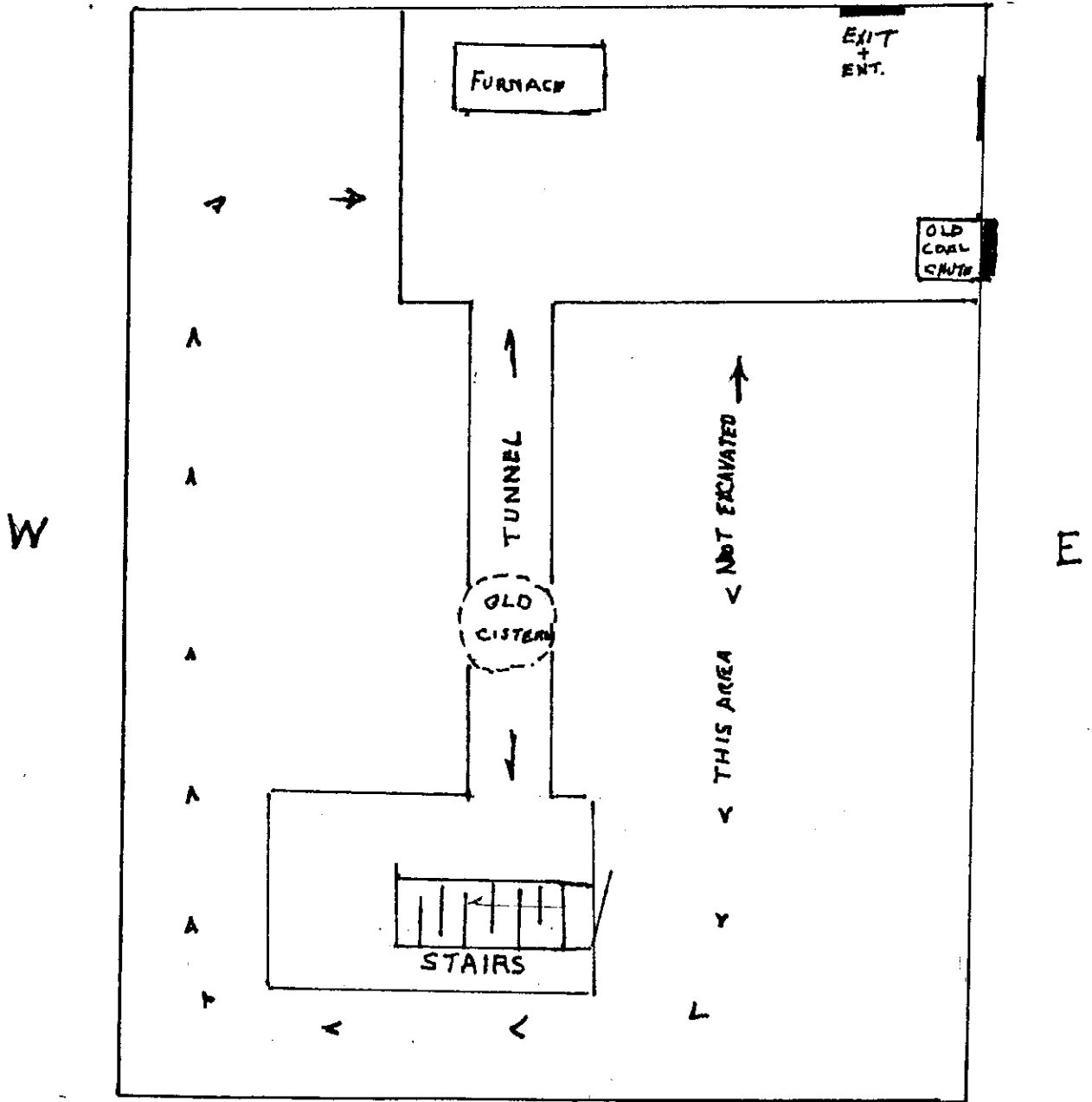


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JAN 2005

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MASONIC TEMPLE COLLINSVILLE, IL



BASEMENT

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DRAWING NOT TO SCALE



**Illinois Historic  
Preservation Agency**

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1507 • Teletypewriter Only (217) 524-7128

Voice (217) 782-4836

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable Stan Schaeffer, Mayor of Collinsville  
Bill Iseminger, Chair, Collinsville Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Amy Easton, Assistant Coordinator, National Register and Survey *AKS*

DATE: January 4, 2005

SUBJECT: Preliminary Opinion of the Collinsville Masonic Temple  
Lodge #712 A. F. & A. M., Collinsville, Illinois

The Collinsville Masonic Temple Lodge #712 A. F. & A. M., located at 213 West Clay Street, is locally significant and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for social history and Criterion C for architecture. This local chapter of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons has played an active role in promoting and supporting charitable and community-based programs in Collinsville. Lodge members organized in 1872 and began meeting in the temple in 1912, the year it was completed. The temple is an excellent local example of Classical Revival architecture.

The lodge maintains sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register. Its period of significance for social history is from 1912 until 1955, the fifty-year cut-off for significance for the National Register. Its period of significance for architecture is 1912.

ILLINOIS, GREENE COUNTY,  
Black Homestead Farm,  
RR 3,  
Carrollton, 05000110,  
LISTED, 5/24/05

ILLINOIS, LEE COUNTY,  
Wright, Stephen, House,  
612 Chicago Rd.,  
Paw Paw, 05000433,  
LISTED, 5/22/05

\* ILLINOIS, MADISON COUNTY,  
Collinsville Masonic Temple Lodge #712 A.F. & A.M.,  
213 W. Clay St.,  
Collinsville, 05000430,  
LISTED, 5/22/05

ILLINOIS, MENARD COUNTY,  
Rogers, Col. Matthew, Building,  
200 S. Main St.,  
Athens, 05000431,  
LISTED, 5/22/05

ILLINOIS, ROCK ISLAND COUNTY,  
Villa de Chantal Historic District,  
2101 16th Ave.,  
Rock Island, 05000432,  
LISTED, 5/22/05

KANSAS, DONIPHAN COUNTY,  
Brenner Vineyards Historic District,  
SW of jct. of Mineral Point and 95th Rds.,  
Doniphan vicinity, 04001514,  
LISTED, 5/24/05

MARYLAND, BALTIMORE INDEPENDENT CITY,  
Rombro Building,  
22--24 S. Howard St.,  
Baltimore, 94001172,  
LISTED, 5/26/05  
(Cast Iron Architecture of Baltimore MPS)

MASSACHUSETTS, BARNSTABLE COUNTY,  
Coast Guard Motor Lifeboat CG 36500,  
berthed at Rock Harbor,  
Orleans, 05000467,  
LISTED, 5/27/05

MASSACHUSETTS, ESSEX COUNTY,  
River Road--Cross Street Historic District,  
Cross, Prospect Sts., River, Salem Rds.,  
Topsfield, 05000465,  
LISTED, 5/26/05  
(Farms and Rural Retreats of Topsfield, Massachusetts MPS)

MASSACHUSETTS, MIDDLESEX COUNTY,  
Higginson, Henry, House,  
44 Baker Farm Rd.,  
Lincoln, 05000468,

ILLINOIS, GREENE COUNTY,  
Black Homestead Farm,  
RR 3,  
Carrollton, 05000110,  
LISTED, 5/24/05

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