

Masonic Temple  
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all the lines that apply)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT  
ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

1917

### Significant Dates

1917

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Greeley, Wallace M.

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder

Liebe, Nourse, Rasmussen  
Cole, Ben J.

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

## 9. Major Bibliography References

### Bibliography

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

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ previous determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Record
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historical Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 10

CFN-259-1116

Masonic Temple, Story County, Iowa.

**SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Begun in 1916 and completed in 1917, the Masonic Temple is National Register eligible, locally under Criterion A, because it calls attention to a high point of progressive era construction in Downtown Ames. Together with a handful of other downtown public and semi-public buildings of note, the construction of the Masonic Temple signaled Ames' emergence from a rural town to a modern Iowa city. As one local newspaper reported at the time:

From present indications the improvement record in Ames this year will be the greatest thus far in its history and this new structure [the Masonic Temple] will be one of the big additions to the city. (*Ames Weekly Tribune*, April 6, 1916)

Further, the Masonic Temple promoted the expansion of Downtown Ames. Its construction solidified Douglas Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Street as emerging corridors of commercial importance in the central business district.

The Masonic Temple is significant, locally under Criterion B, because it calls attention to the life of Capt. Wallace M. Greeley, an Ames banker and civic leader. Greeley's career in Ames spanned more than 50 years, at various times as its mayor and as its district representative to the Iowa House of Representatives. Greeley commissioned the erection of the Temple Block, a notable example of his many philanthropic contributions to the city.

The Masonic Temple is significant, locally and under Criterion C, because it calls attention to Liebbe, Nourse and Rasmussen, the Des Moines architectural firm responsible for its design. This firm excelled in designing buildings with severe Classical Revival lines relieved by warm-colored brick exteriors, excellent proportions, and subtle architectural detailing. The Masonic Temple stands as a notable example.

The period of significance under Criteria A, B, and C is 1917, the time in Ames' progressive era when the Masonic Temple was constructed, solidified the emergence of 5<sup>th</sup> Street as a commercial corridor, and called attention to the boosterism and civic philanthropy of Capt. Wallace M. Greeley. The year 1917 is a significant date for these reasons.

The property contains one resource for this nomination, the Masonic Temple itself, which is contributing and classified as a building. The common name for the building today—The Octagon—stems from the Octagon Center for the Arts' adaptive reuse of an historic octagon-shaped house (nonextant) in Ames as its original headquarters.

The Masonic Temple fulfills the registration requirements of the *A Home for Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa, 1864-1941 MPD* because it directly illustrates "Patterns of Community Development" and "Town

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 11

CFN-259-1116

Masonic Temple, Story County, Iowa.

Building:" 1) during the period of significance of these historic contexts, 2) as associated with the evolution of land use, and 3) as associated with Capt. Wallace M. Greeley. The Masonic Temple also fulfills these MPD requirements because it directly illustrates "Housing the Town and Gown: The Variety of Architecture" during the period of significance of this historic context and as associated with the building's architectural design.

**WALLACE M. GREELEY**

The Masonic Temple calls attention to the life of Wallace M. Greeley and his substantial contributions to the upbuilding and civic life of the City of Ames.

Wallace M. Greeley (1838-1917) was one of Ames' most notable citizens and boosters. (See Figure 16.) As president of the Union National Bank, Greeley became a millionaire during his lifetime and wielded considerable power in the community, albeit exercising it with caution and an eye for community betterment. A Republican in politics, Greeley served in the Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth, and Thirty-first General Assemblies of Iowa. Greeley also served as mayor of Ames, first elected in 1887 and re-elected in 1888 and 1889. According to the City Historian of Ames, Greeley "did much for the developing city of Ames. Often his contribution was of the less visible nature. Many a vital cause received his support at a critical moment." (Brown: 45) Nowhere was this more evident than at the end of his life in 1917, when he erected the Masonic Temple and bequeathed Mary Greeley Memorial Hospital to the public.

Commissioned in the U.S. Army during the Civil War and subsequently promoted to the rank of major, Greeley left his native New York State following the war and, in 1866, relocated to the newly founded community of Ames, Iowa. Greeley farmed for a time and, in 1881, founded the Union Bank in Ames. The selection of this name for it offers one insight into his success in business and finance. The name stirred local pride in the preservation of national unity and obliquely referenced Greeley's military service to this cause—both reasons to instill trust in his bank. Greeley served as the mayor of Ames from 1887 to 1890 and a member of the General Assembly of Iowa for three terms. He also served on the Ames School Board. Greeley made major philanthropic contributions to Ames' betterment through a gift of land for the Ames Public Library and the construction of Mary Greeley Memorial Hospital, as mentioned above. Through all these years, Greeley was respectfully called "Captain Greeley," in recognition of his service during the Civil War, the title he preferred to his higher rank of major.

Capt. Greeley and Mary V. Greeley, his wife, liked to build. Indeed, they treated their home at 520 Douglas Avenue as a lifetime work in progress. The house was built in 1882 as a showplace residence. About 1900, the Greeleys employed Liebbe, Nourse and Rasmussen to remodel the house, a radical undertaking that transformed its exterior and interior from ones influenced by Late Victorian styling to ones influenced by Colonial Revival styling. (They also had the doorknobs in the house lowered to accommodate Mary

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 12

CFN-259-1116

Masonic Temple, Story County, Iowa.

Greeley's short height.) The Greeleys subsequently enlarged their home with the construction of the rear wing.

In 1904, Greeley donated the land across the street at 515 Douglas Avenue for the construction of the Ames Carnegie Library. These and other projects, including no doubt construction financed through the Union National Bank, demonstrate Greeley's passion to build.

Following his wife's death, Greeley indulged this passion freely, constructing the Masonic Temple at 413-429 Douglas Avenue in 1917 and Mary Greeley Memorial Hospital a few blocks to the north at 1111 Douglas Avenue in 1917. Both of these projects illustrate Greeley's philanthropy. Greeley leased the third floor of the Masonic Temple to the local Masons for 99 years rent free, although he was not a Mason himself. After completing the construction of the hospital, including a stipend for the purchase of medical equipment, Greeley deeded the property to the City of Ames. Capt. and Mrs. Greeley had no children, and it is safe to assume that Greeley looked upon his adopted home of Ames as progeny.

Today, Douglas Avenue testifies to Greeley multi-faceted career. The Union National Bank on the corner of Douglas Avenue and Main Street calls attention to his career as a banker. Moving north on Douglas, the Masonic Temple calls attention to him as an Ames booster and philanthropist. The Greeley House across the street calls attention to his private life. Farther up on Douglas Avenue, the Ames Public Library and Mary Greeley Memorial Hospital call further attention to Greeley's philanthropic impulses.

At most every turn, Greeley played counterpoint to Parley Sheldon, an Ames citizen of equal stature and force. Republican in politics, Greeley countered Sheldon's active support of the Democratic Party. As head of the Union Bank, Greeley rivaled Sheldon's Story County Bank. At a time before Iowa State College heavily influenced Ames, these two men were the city's makers and shakers. Both men liked to build. In 1916, Sheldon and A. H. Munn, another local entrepreneur, built the Sheldon-Munn Hotel. Under Sheldon's leadership as mayor, the City of Ames built a new Municipal Building, also in 1916. The hotel quickly became the center of social activity in Ames. Its monumental size and commercial importance shifted the fulcrum of Ames' central business district from Main and Douglas Avenue, where it had originated, to Main and Kellogg Avenue. This in turn led to the upbuilding of Main Street farther to the west.

Given their rivalry, it was only natural that Greeley and Sheldon would choose different architectural firms for their projects. Greeley regularly commissioned Liebbe, Nourse and Rasmussen, while Sheldon regularly patronized Proudfoot & Bird. The long-term rivalry between these two men provides many colorful chapters in Ames' history; and, because they were both deeply dedicated to Ames' betterment, their competition benefited the community immeasurably.

As to the National Register status of resources associated with Wallace M. Greeley: The Union National Bank and Masonic Temple retain their historic integrity. Although several additions have expanded the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 13

CFN-259-1116

Masonic Temple, Story County, Iowa.

Ames Public Library, its historic core remains extant. The Greeley House subsequently was converted to the Adams Funeral Home, a function that the building continues to perform to the present day. An evaluation of the building in 2000 determined that the Wallace M. and Mary V. Greeley House-Adams Funeral Home was National Register-eligible as an outstanding example of a Victorian residence converted into a funeral home. (Page, 2000) Mary Greeley Memorial Hospital has become an institution of fundamental importance in Ames. Over the years, many additions have engulfed its 1917 core, decreasing its integrity. Of these five resources, three are contiguous and two are not. Further research and evaluation is necessary to determine if an historic district is feasible.

**DOWNTOWN AMES COMES OF AGE**

Progressive Era

The Masonic Temple calls attention to a high point of progressive development in Downtown Ames just prior to America's entry into World War I. (Page 2003: E-7) This was an era of great prosperity in Ames when a conjunction of economic, infrastructure, and educational elements coalesced in "a period of growth and prosperity, such as no other Story County town has ever enjoyed and which few towns in this part of the state have at any one time enjoyed." (Payne: 437-438)

The Masonic Temple stands as a landmark building within this historic context. The following table lists the major public and semi-public buildings in Ames' central business district, which signaled the great construction boom of 1916, as quoted previously from the *Ames Weekly Tribune*:

MAJOR PROGRESSIVE ERA PUBLIC & SEMI-PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Name	Address	Construction Date	Notes
Ames Municipal Building	420 Kellogg Ave.	1916	Liebbe, Nourse & Rasmussen, architects, NRHP
Sheldon-Munn Hotel	301-311 Main St.	1916	Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson, architects
Mary Greeley Memorial Hospital	1111 Douglas Ave.	1916	Liebbe, Nourse & Rasmussen, architects
Masonic Temple	413-429 Douglas Ave.	1916-1917	Liebbe Nourse & Rasmussen, architects
Odd Follows Temple	225-227 Main St.	1918	Rebuilt following fire, architect unknown

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 14

CFN-259-1116

Masonic Temple, Story County, Iowa.

Expansion of Central Business District

The Masonic Temple contributed to the expansion of Ames' central business district beyond its original Main Street corridor. The construction of the Masonic Temple at the corner of Douglas Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Street and the Ames Municipal Building at the corner of Kellogg Avenue and 5th Street elevated the status of 5<sup>th</sup> Street as an emerging corridor of commercial importance in the Ames' central business district.

Ames' original 1864 plat had laid out Main Street (then known as Onondaga Street) as a long street, a design often favored by railroad companies. These plats, Ames among them, laid out small building lots for commercial development paralleling the railroad tracks. Such a layout predestined the pattern of commercial development along Main Street in Ames. These lots form the core of Ames' central business district today.

The construction of two prominent buildings along Douglas Avenue in the 1910s shifted this trajectory and opened up 5<sup>th</sup> Street as a second corridor for commercial expansion in Ames' central business district. The Ames Municipal Building at 420 Kellogg Avenue in 1916 and the Masonic Temple at 413-429 Douglas Avenue in 1917 helped draw commercial interest to the north. Bookending the 200 block of 5<sup>th</sup> Street—the municipal building on its west end and the temple on its east end—these two buildings solidified 5<sup>th</sup> Street as a corridor of commercial potential. By World War II, 5<sup>th</sup> Street had become the second major corridor in the Ames central business district.

As commercial development in Ames evolved, this linear layout became the backbone for downtown Ames. As the town grew, 5<sup>th</sup> Street, which parallels Main Street one block to its north, gradually developed as a "second Main Street." The 1910s were critical for this development. Ideas had percolated for sometime within the business community before a seminal plan for the upbuilding of 5<sup>th</sup> Street appeared in 1913. (See Figure 13.) Sponsored by Parley Sheldon and A. H. Munn and prepared by architects Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson, a presentation drawing for this development envisioned the construction of a 3-story brick hotel and a new 2-story municipal building for the City of Ames. Both of these new buildings were to face north. The municipal building included a fire station with an observation tower as well as city offices. The site for the municipal building made sense as it historically had served as the location of a city water tower. The site for the hotel also had historical precedent, as the Arlington House, a frame hotel on the southwest corner of Douglas Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Street, had stood on a nearby corner for many years.

The Ames Municipal Building was erected on this site in 1916 although without the tower and somewhat different in style. The Sheldon-Munn Hotel, named after its developers, was also constructed but at 301-311 Main Street instead of as shown on the drawing.

The construction of the Masonic Temple at the east end of the street in 1917 anchored the 200 block of 5<sup>th</sup> Street on the east and assured its future commercial expansion. This development took many years to materialize. At the very time the Masonic Temple was completed in 1917, the United States entered World

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 15

CFN-259-1116

Masonic Temple, Story County, Iowa.

War I, putting further construction projects on hold. Following the war, Ames enjoyed a phenomenal population growth and a vigorous a local economy. (Page 2003: E-7) Various entrepreneurs took advantage of 5<sup>th</sup> Street's choice commercial locations to redevelop existing land use to higher and better use. The Collegiate Manufacturing Company erected a large, 3-story commercial and light-industrial block at 208-210 5<sup>th</sup> Street in 1927. The Ames Laundry (nonextant) followed to the west. Following World War II, the 300 and 400 blocks of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue developed commercially.

Such development also continued to spread northwards. In the 1930s, the Fair-Way (*sic*, now known as Fareway) supermarket expanded its operations in Ames with the construction of a new store (nonextant) at 409-411 Kellogg Avenue. This was formerly the site of the U.S. Post Office in Ames. (*Ames Daily Tribune*, March 18, 1938)

All of this commercial expansion took place at the expense of the eastern reaches of Main Street. Indeed, the 100 block of this street never saw the substantial commercial development that occurred in the central business district to the east and northeast. As late as 1929, for example, the property at 107 Main Street remained unimproved. In that year, the Ames city council granted permission to erect a lunchroom at this site, a vacant lot. The specifications for this modest brick and tile building included 20 x 28 foot footprint and a cost of approximately \$2,000. (*Ames Daily Tribune and Evening Times*, October 10, 1929)

Ames Arcadia Lodge #249

Over the years, the Ames Masons have fostered personal development and community service. The organization has lived a peripatetic life. During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the lodge was housed on the second floor of the building where the Ames Pantorium now stands at 410 Douglas Avenue. Later, the lodge moved to the second floor of the Fair Store in the 200 block of Main Street. In 1917 the lodge moved to the third floor of the Masonic Temple, where it remained until the construction of a new lodge hall in 1997 at 104 Alexander Avenue in Ames.

Over the years, the Ames Masons, like their parent organization, have sponsored philanthropic and social betterment projects. During the influenza pandemic in 1918, the Ames Masons converted Brooks House, a 2-story single-family residence (nonextant) that they owned in the 500 block of Kellogg Avenue, into a hospital for quarantined patients. Today, the lodge sponsors a Masonic scholarship program for students entering college or higher-level education.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 16

CFN-259-1116

Masonic Temple, Story County, Iowa.

**ARCHITECTURE**

The Masonic Temple calls attention to the significance of Liebbe, Nourse and Rasmussen, the architects responsible for its design. This firm excelled in designing buildings with severe Classical Revival lines relieved by warm-colored brick exteriors, excellent proportions, and subtle architectural detailing.

Liebbe, Nourse and Rasmussen

The firm was the architect of choice for Wallace M. Greeley, who was responsible for the erection of the building. Greeley commissioned the firm to design other buildings in Ames, including Mary Greeley Hospital (also of 1916) and the Union National Bank at 201 Main Street, of which Greeley served as president. The Masonic Temple presents a fine design as created by Liebbe, Nourse and Rasmussen.

The selection of Liebbe, Nourse and Rasmussen as the architectural firm to design the Masonic Temple attests to Capt. Greeley's desire to build an edifice of rank and distinction, as the firm had achieved a high profile in Ames by the early 20th century. (Page 2003: E-68)

In planning this new commercial block, Greeley discussed a leasing agreement with the *Ames Evening Times* for this local newspaper to relocate to Greeley's new building. The newspaper at the time was located at 411 Douglas Avenue. Indeed, an architect's presentation drawing pictures Greeley's proposed building with large, commercial-style metal windows on its north elevation to provide "excellent light for the newspaper's composing room and press room." (*Ames Evening Tribune*, April 6, 1916) Although an agreement with the newspaper fell through and the design of the building was altered to reflect another use, Greeley and the Masons executed an agreement for that organization to lease the building's third floor. "Capt. Greeley is to build a two story business block and the Masonic lodge will build a third story into a modern lodge home." (*Ibid.*) As it happened, Greeley built the third floor as well and leased it to the Masons for 99 years free of rent. (*Ames Evening Times*, February 22, 1917)

Classical Revival Design

Popular at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Classical Revival influence on the design of the Masonic Temple includes the employment of pilasters for storefronts and upper floors, restrained cornices at the top of facades, and keystone hoodmolds above upper floor windows. Light yellow-buff colored-brick or, alternatively, dark red-colored brick is used for their exterior walls. Buildings are frequently embellished with decorative trimwork fabricated in brick and/or stone, whose detailing varies according to the sophistication of their architectural designs. This trimwork includes cornices, dentils, belt courses, hoodmolds, and quoins. Often the presence of a brickworked frieze accents the cornice of these designs.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEETSection number 8 Page 17

CFN-259-1116

Masonic Temple, Story County, Iowa.

The following table lists Classical Revival-influenced designs in Downtown Ames:

CLASSICAL REVIVAL-INFLUENCED DESIGNS IN DOWNTOWN AMES

Name	Address	Date of Construction	Notes
Union National Bank	201 Main St.	1890 & 1917	Front entrance, entablature, stucco, building faced-lifted in 1917
Tilden Brothers & Company	203-205-207 Main St.	1917	Entablature, stucco, front facade remodeled in 1917
Commercial Building	229 Main St.	1901	Segmental windows, entablature
Budd Building	230 Main St.	1895	Light-colored brick, stylized entablature
Budd Commercial Block	232-234 Main St.	1895	Light-colored brick, stylized entablature
Commercial Building	236 Main St.	1896-97	Entablature w/dentils
Adams Grocery-Commercial Savings Bank	300 Main St.	1908	Entablature, segmental windows
Commercial Building	302 Main St.	1908	Brickworked plaque, early example of this cornice treatment
Collegiate Manufacturing Co. Block	208-210 5 <sup>th</sup> St.	1927	Entablature, light-colored brick
Tilden Building	409 Douglas Ave.	bet. 1900-11	Entablature, light-colored brick
Masonic Temple	413-429 Douglas Ave.	1916	Entryway pilasters, entablature
Ames Municipal Building	420 Kellogg Ave.	1916	Symmetrical facade, podium, cornice

As can be seen in this table, the influence of Classical Revival styling pervades Downtown Ames even to the present day. Coupled with Chicago-related stylistic influences emanating within the district during the early 20<sup>th</sup> the century, these buildings dominate Downtown Ames.

Classical Revival styling employs classical elements derived from ancient Greek and Roman architecture such as symmetry, columns and capitals, entablatures, and other devices. Classical Revival styling appeared in Ames during the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The commercial building at 229 Main Street exemplifies its influence. Although the storefront has been altered (to be expected) and the 1/1 double-hung windows on the second floor replaced, the historic integrity of this building remains high. In the symmetrical simplicity of its front facade and entablature, we see the restrained dignity, which the style sought to achieve.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 18

CFN-259-1116

Masonic Temple, Story County, Iowa.

More elaborate examples of Classical Revivalism exist in downtown Ames. The Union National Bank at 201 Main Street features a main entrance flanked by pilasters with Corinthian capitals supporting an entablature with frieze and denticulated cornice.

The construction of the Masonic Temple occurred as the influence of Classical Revivalism waned and the growing influence of Chicago-styled commercial design waxed in Ames. This can be seen in the east facade of the Masonic Temple. A simple entablature of a cast stone architrave, brick frieze, and cast stone cornice is situated above its first story and visually separates it from the upper stories. A stylized entablature of a cast stone architrave (lintel-appearing), a plain brick frieze embellished with cast stone detailing, and totally devoid of a cornice is situated at the top of the building. As can be seen in this description, the Masonic Temple references the entablature of classical antiquity but has reduced its elements to stylized simplicity. In this context, the Masonic Temple is forwarding looking in concept and presages later 20<sup>th</sup> century architectural design.

**SELECTION OF HISTORIC NAME**

Over the years, the Masonic Temple also has been called the A.F.&A.M. Hall, Masonic Building, Greeley Building, Octagon, and Octagon Center for the Arts. This nomination selected "Masonic Temple" as the historic name for this building because most contemporary accounts of its planning and construction used it. Its other monikers are common names for the building.

**REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS**

William C. Page surveyed the Masonic Temple in 1992 for the Department of Planning and Housing of the City of Ames. That project included a reconnaissance survey of the city's corporate limits as of 1943 and an intensive survey of its central business district. The three-volume work explored a number of historic contexts and completed numerous Iowa Site Inventory Forms for individual properties.

One chapter of that survey addressed "The Notables of Ames: Academic and Commercial Elites." In a summary of that chapter, the report stated that:

Historical significance obtains for individuals in Ames who have achieved local prominence because of their contributions to the commercial life of the community, to the betterment and enrichment of the community, to local politics and government, education, social reform, artistic achievement, and other human activity. (Page 1992:II-61)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 19

CFN-259-1116

Masonic Temple, Story County, Iowa.

That survey went on to single out Wallace M. Greeley as one of those notables and the Greeley House as individually eligible for nomination to the National Register within that historic context. (*Ibid.*:II-65 and Site 6-1)

In 2013, William C. Page prepared *Downtown Ames Historic District Intensive Survey*, a report prepared for the Department of Planning and Housing of the City of Ames. This report evaluated the Masonic Temple as contributing to that historic district.

**POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY**

The site's potential for archaeological significance is, as yet, unevaluated. It is unlikely that such investigation could uncover traces of previous construction on the site, given the major site disturbance connected with the construction of the Masonic Temple. As one local newspaper reported:

Tuesday morning workmen began excavating for the new three-story brick block to be erected on the site of the old Arlington hotel. Sixteen teams were put to work and the dirt is being rapidly removed. This is one of the best improvements ever made in the city. (*Ames Weekly Tribune*, June 29, 1916)

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND REGISTRATION**

Research, for example, might discover historic commercial buildings in Downtown Ames financed by Greeley's bank, perhaps increasing thereby the number of resources to the proposed Downtown Ames Historic District. (Page, 2013) Further research might identify other examples of Greeley's personal philanthropy. Little research has cast light on these aspects of Greeley's career to date. This is understandable given the private nature of banking. This also helps explain the quotation cited above that "often his contribution was of the less visible nature."

Excellent potential exists for the nomination of the Ames Civic Corridor Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. (Page 1992:60) The Masonic Temple and the Wallace M. and Mary V. Greeley House-Adams Funeral Home stand in the east portion of a civic corridor in Ames. The blocks between 5th and 6th Streets serve as the connecting link in this corridor. These blocks possess a series of public and private resources, extending from Bandshell Park on the east to Clark Street on the west. These resources include the former Ames High School, U.S. Post Office, the Ames Public Library, First United Methodist Church, International Order of Odd Fellows Hall, and Bandshell Park Historic District (NRHP). Several other churches are situated adjacent to this corridor on the north.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 20

CFN-259-1116

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Masonic Temple, Story County, Iowa.

Taken together, these public and semi-public institutions form an impressive linear corridor and edge the spine of the Ames central business district, which runs along Main Street to the south. Further research might well prove that this corridor is National Register-eligible as an historic district. The corridor conforms to informal patterns of town building as practiced in Iowa, wherein religious, institutional, and government properties edge downtowns and provide transitional land-use between downtown and residential sections. These properties oftentimes supplanted earlier forms of land use in the area during second or third waves of construction in their respective communities.