

HISTORY COLORADO

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES NOMINATION FORM

SECTION I

Name of Property

Historic Name Rifle Lodge No. 129, A.F & A.M.

Other Names Rifle Masonic Lodge

Address of Property

[] address not for publication

Street Address 421 Railroad Avenue

City Rifle County Garfield Zip 81650

Present Owner of Property

(for multiple ownership, list the names and addresses of each owner on one or more continuation sheets)

Name Rifle Masonic Improvement Association, dba Rifle Fraternal Holding Association and dba Rifle Lodge No. 129 Temple Association

Address 421 Railroad Avenue Phone (970) 379-8016

City Rifle State CO Zip 81650

Owner Consent for Nomination

(attach signed consent from each owner of property - see attached form)

Preparer of Nomination

Name Erika Warzel Date 7 August 2020

Organization Clerestory Preservation LLC

Address 1822 S. Ivanhoe Street Phone (303) 847-5108

City Denver State CO Zip 80224

FOR OFFICIAL USE:

Site Number 5GF.1014

8/24/2020 Nomination Received

1/15/2021 Review Board Recommendation
 Approval Denial

1/27/2021 HC Board State Register Listing
 Approved Denied

Listing Criteria A B C D E

Cheryl Swales
Certification of Listing: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer HISTORY COLORADO

1/28/21
 Date

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SECTION II

Local Historic Designation

Has the property received local historic designation?

no

yes --- individually designated designated as part of a historic district

Date designated 20 May 2015

Designated by City of Rifle (Name of municipality or county)

Use of Property

Historic Fraternal Organization/Social Hall

Current Fraternal Organization/Social Hall

Original Owner Rifle Lodge No. 129, A.F & A.M.

Source of Information The Rifle Telegram, 26 June 1914.

Year of Construction 1914

Source of Information The Rifle Telegram, 26 June 1914.

Architect, Builder, Engineer, Artist or Designer F. Elwood Jenkins (architect)

Source of Information original architectural drawings, from collection of Rifle Masonic Lodge

Locational Status

Original location of resource(s)

Resource(s) moved to current location

Date of move _____

For Office Use Only

Property Type: building(s) district site structure object area

Architectural Style/Engineering Type: n/a

Period of Significance: 1914-1990

Level of Significance: Local State National

Multiple Property Submission: n/a

Acreage less than one

P.M. 6th Township 6S Range 93W Section 16 Quarter Sections NE NW

UTM Reference: Zone 13 Easting 260763 Northing 4379639 NAD83

Site Elevation: 5343 feet

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SECTION III

DESCRIPTION AND ALTERATIONS

(describe the current and original appearance of the property followed by a discussion of all alterations)

The Rifle Lodge No. 129, A.F & A.M. (Ancient Free & Accepted Masons), also known as the Rifle Masonic Lodge, is a two-story brick building built in 1914 with a rectangular footprint measuring approximately 61' (east-west) x 33' (north-south). The building faces east toward Railroad Avenue, Rifle's main street running north-south. To the lodge's immediate north and west is a modern bank building with a drive-through driveway running along the north property line; to the building's south is an alley. The approximately 16' setback between the front of the lodge and the public sidewalk along Railroad Avenue is paved with concrete, while the rear of the building overlooks a gravel parking area, beyond which is additional parking for the bank next door.

The lodge building has a flat roof with parapets and is fairly simple in design, featuring little ornamentation save for decorative brickwork on the east-facing main façade, which is also dominated by a substantial, nearly full-width porch supported by three brick square piers. The lodge's red-brick walls are supported by a concrete foundation and laid in common bond, with headers every seventh course; at the east façade, every seventh course of brick has an alternating stretcher/header pattern. Deep-set windows are historic and made of wood of either awning or double-hung operability, with flat lintels and rough-faced sandstone sills. As evidenced by the original undated architectural drawings in Lodge No. 129's collection, the lodge building was not constructed as originally designed; the majority of the differences between the original design (see Fig. 3 & 4) and what was built consists of a paring down, perhaps due to cost, by eliminating wall ornamentation and cantilevered overhangs above the windows (further discussed below in Section IV).

East-facing (Front) Side (photos 1-3)

The front façade of the lodge facing the street is dominated by the large porch at the ground level, which features a large mansard roof with flared eaves supported by three brick square piers. The raised floor of the porch is concrete and is accessed by a full-width concrete step or by a shallow concrete ramp with pipe railing at the northeast corner installed sometime between 1981 and 1994; the paving over of the front lawn likely occurred at the same time. A smaller concrete ramp was installed at the south end of the porch in the 1920s. At the northeast corner of the building, to the immediate north of the porch floor, is a marble cornerstone, which replaced the original cornerstone in 2014 in commemoration of the building's centennial anniversary, at which time a time capsule enclosed in the original cornerstone was retrieved.¹ The mansard roof of the porch is covered in three-tab asphalt shingles; a photo from 1916 documenting this same porch appears to show wood shake shingles. The ceiling of the porch is beadboard paneling. Two symmetrically-placed historic wood paneled doors lead from the porch to the reception room. Above and to the side of each door, still sheltered by the porch, is a four-light wood awning window.

The second level of the lodge is framed by decorative brickwork at the parapet, corner piers, and a central, slightly projecting, vertical band of brick, all of which feature corbelling and courses of saw tooth soldiers. The upper floor has two additional windows set above the porch, with their location corresponding to the first-floor

¹ The time capsule contained copies of newspaper articles reporting on the 1914 laying of the cornerstone, and which are now on display at the Lodge.

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windows within the porch overhang. These windows are also four-light wood awning windows, though the north window has had two of its lights replaced by one. The central vertical brick band set between the two windows extends up from the porch roof to the parapet, widening at about the level of the window sills to accommodate an original metal Masonic symbol of compass-and-square.

South-facing Side (photos 3-4)

The side of the building facing the alley is punctured by two rows of windows corresponding to the two interior levels. Each row has five regularly-spaced four-light awning windows, with non-historic aluminum storm windows applied over them at an unknown date. A safety roof ladder is mounted at the west end of the wall; the date of its installation is unknown.

West-facing Side (photos 5-6)

An offset door opening at the first floor has a segmental arch and non-historic metal screen door and is accessed by two concrete steps with pipe railings at either side. To the north of the door are two double-hung one-over-one windows, below which is an exterior concrete stairway to the basement covered by a standing-seam metal panel. A utility meter is mounted near the north corner. Another double-hung one-over-one window at the south end of the wall indicates the stairway return landing between the two levels. The second level has two additional double-hung one-over-one windows; the northernmost window aligns with the north window of the first floor, while the second window is at the approximate center of the wall.

North-facing Side (photos 6-7)

The north-facing side is nearly identical to the south, with two rows of five wood four-light awning windows with non-historic storms. An additional basement access stairway with standing-seam metal cover is about halfway along the wall. Directly below the easternmost window at the second level is a flush metal emergency exit door leading to a metal fire-escape and straight run of stairs down to grade at the west. Based on their construction, the fire exit and escape are believed to have been installed before World War II, with further reinforcing occurring ca. 1970s.²

Interior (photos 9-14)

The interior of the lodge building retains many historic features, such as dark varnished wood trim, paneled doors, and original hardware. The first floor is made up of a reception room off the porch, which leads into a banquet room with central supporting columns clad in the same dark varnished wood. To the west of the banquet room is a kitchen with pantry and rear exit, as well as a toilet. At the southwest corner, a stairway with original treads and balustrade rises up to the second level, which is dominated by the lodge room. Trusses within the roof allow this room to be open and uninterrupted by structural supports. The lodge room ceiling is believed to have originally been coffered, which at an unknown date (likely ca. 1960s) was covered over with acoustic tiling. To the west of the lodge room is a foyer, off of which at the north is the “candidate’s room,” where prospective lodge members are kept during the initiation ceremony. Much of the furniture in the lodge room, such as the benches and leadership chairs, are also original to the building. The awning windows are set high in the walls of the banquet, reception, and lodge rooms, maintaining privacy for the lodge’s activities while

² Forensic engineer Lawrence Graham, JVA Inc., and architect Jessica Reske, Form+Works Design Group, personal communication with E. Warzel, 15 September 2020.

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allowing natural light within.

INTEGRITY

(discuss the property's historic integrity)

The Rifle Masonic Lodge maintains a high degree of integrity. Although it was not constructed as originally designed, the building has changed little since it was built in 1914. The reason for its deviation from the original drawings is unknown, though it may have been due to cost. The building as constructed has the same high-set awning windows, but without the planned cantilevered overhangs above each level and vertical ornamentation between the windows. The result is a building that appears to be somewhat incongruous with typical architectural styles of its era, giving the impression that it may have been substantially altered at some point. A 1914 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows the building without its substantial front porch, though the building was under construction at the time and the map indicates the building as drawn is "from plans" (see Fig. 1); a 1939 Sanborn map shows the building as it stands today with the full front porch (see Fig. 2). A photograph from 1916 (see HP1) confirms that the building is essentially as it was built in 1914, including the dominant brick front porch with mansard roof. The as-built design is changed only with the installation of concrete ramps at the porch (ca. 1920s and 1980s), replacement of the porch wood shingles with asphalt shingles by 1981, and installation of the fire exit and stairs at the north side, ca. 1940s. Despite these changes, all of which have occurred during the period of significance of 1914-1990, the building's materials and workmanship are not compromised due to the extant original brickwork and wood awning windows, and though the original wood shingles of the porch have been replaced, the current asphalt shingles maintain the general appearance of the historic material. Furthermore, the interior of the lodge retains a high level of integrity, with all original wood trim, doors, and hardware retained, though the ceiling of the second-floor lodge room was covered in acoustic panels ca. 1960s. The lodge's setting has slightly changed with the paving over of the original front grass lawn and the construction of the modern bank to its immediate north where a large dwelling once stood. Otherwise, the building's feeling and association as a Masonic lodge from the early-twentieth century remain unaltered.

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SECTION IV

Significance of Property

Nomination Criteria

- A** - property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to history
- B** - property is connected with persons significant in history
- C** - property has distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or artisan
- D** - property is of geographic importance
- E** - property contains the possibility of important discoveries related to prehistory or history

Areas of Significance

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology –
prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology –
historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/
Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/
Settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Geography/
Community Identity | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/
Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community
Planning and
Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social History |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |

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SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

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

Rifle Lodge No. 129, A.F & A.M. is locally significant under Criterion A for Social History from 1914-1990 for its long-standing role as a place for fraternal organizational meetings and public and social gatherings for the larger community of Rifle. For several months in 1918, the building also served as a temporary hospital for patients afflicted by the influenza pandemic of 1918-19.

Fraternal organizations such as the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (also known as the Freemasons, Masons, or Masonic Order) played an important role in the social life of small towns, particularly in more remote areas such as the Western Slope of Colorado, where they offered mutual assistance to members and their lodge building served as a prominent social venue for townspeople as well as ranchers and farmers who lived in the vicinity. Auxiliary organizations, such as the Order of the Eastern Star (OES), an appendant body of the Masonic Order that was open to both men and women, and the Royal Arch Masons, a level of Freemasonry degree within the York Rite system, also made use of a lodge's building; the local chapters OES Jewell Chapter No. 77, and Royal Arch Masons No. 48 were no exceptions.

Unlike many lodges for fraternal orders in other communities, Rifle's Masonic Lodge did not feature space for rental income from businesses at the ground floor. The entire building was dedicated to the activities of the lodge members and hosting social events. Over the years, the building has been the venue for numerous community events such as dances, suppers, funerals, and agricultural convention banquets. Though membership has declined from its peak in the 1920s, Lodge No. 129 continues to use the building for its ceremonies and meetings and offer social events. The period of significance for the lodge's association with local social history extends from the year the building opened in 1914 to 1990, a date thirty years in the past in keeping with State Register guidance when no other date is appropriate.

DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY / ADDITIONAL HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Settlement of Rifle

Prior to settlement by European-Americans, the area surrounding present-day Rifle was inhabited by the Ute people, who lived and hunted throughout the central and western mountains of the Colorado Territory until they were forcibly removed in 1881 following the 1879 conflict arising from what has been called the Meeker Massacre near the current town of Meeker forty miles northwest of Rifle. With the removal of the Utes, prospectors and settlers quickly moved in.

The city of Rifle began as the homestead of Abram Maxfield, who settled in the valley where Rifle Creek joined the Grand River (now known as the Colorado River) in 1882 after leaving the mining community of Battle Mountain in Eagle County.³ According to various local historical accounts, the name for Rifle Creek came from earlier prospectors or trappers who had mistakenly left a rifle along a creek where they had camped, and

³ Willa Soncarty, Registrar of Frontier Historical Society and Museum, "Frontier Diary: Maxfield saw potential in Rifle Valley," *Post Independent*, 11 August 2005 (online at <https://www.postindependent.com/opinion/maxfield-saw-potential-in-rifle-valley/>, retrieved 23 July 2020).

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thereafter referred to the creek as Rifle Creek once they returned to retrieve the weapon.⁴ When the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad (D&RG) reached the area in 1889, Maxfield platted eighty acres of his land for a townsite in order to establish a transportation and commercial center. Named for the nearby creek, Rifle went on to grow as the hub from which surrounding agricultural enterprises could ship their goods, particularly fruit and livestock, to wider markets. A fire on 3 May 1902 ruined half of the growing settlement's commercial area, which was quickly rebuilt due to the continued need for an economic and transportation center in the area. The town was officially incorporated in 1905. By the 1910s, it had also become a popular tourist destination for anglers and hunters, following upon the heels of President Theodore Roosevelt's hunting exploits in the area in 1905.

As with many developing communities in the West, fraternal organizations played an early and important role in the town's settlement. Rifle's earliest fraternal organization was the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF), which by 1896 had built a two-story wood-frame lodge and opera house at the northwest corner of Railroad Avenue and 4th Street (5GF.1013), which still stands today. Unlike the later Masonic lodge, the IOOF hall had first floor business space. Though local newspaper accounts mention balls and other occasional social gatherings at the IOOF lodge, this building did not garner as much attention from the press as the later Masonic lodge.

Freemasonry in Colorado and Establishment of Rifle Masonic Lodge, 1908

Commonly accepted as having originated from medieval stonemason guilds, though traced by scholars to England and Scotland of the late-seventeenth century, the Order of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons had spread throughout Europe and Colonial America by the mid-eighteenth century. As the United States expanded westward, Masonic lodges and other fraternal organizations were a common way in which settlers formed community bonds. As a result, the buildings in which these fraternities and their auxiliary women's orders conducted their meetings and other activities also became important social focal points for the greater community, often providing one of the few spaces in which large public groups could gather for secular purposes. As historian David T. Beito notes, though Masonic lodges offered charitable works for their members in need as well as the greater community, a "sizable portion of Masonic mutual aid entailed intangibles such as employment information, temporary lodging, and character references."⁵ By 1920, "[m]ore Americans belonged to fraternal societies than any other kind of voluntary association, with the possible exception of churches."⁶

The first Masonic meeting in Colorado is credited as having taken place in a cabin in Denver in 1858, with lodges soon established in the early towns of Golden, Boulder, and Georgetown.⁷ Prominent Freemasons in Colorado have included, among many others, Henry P. H. Bromwell (1823-1903), lawyer, judge, territorial legislator, and delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1876; William N. Byers (1831-1903), founder and publisher of the *Rocky Mountain News*; and Henry M. Teller (1830-1914), U.S. Senator from Colorado from 1876-82 and 1885-1909. The Order of the Eastern Star was apparently founded in Colorado in 1892, following its official adoption by the Masonic Order in 1873.⁸ OES members in the state have included Mary L. Carr (Worthy Grand

⁴ Audrey Emerson, "Rifle and Vicinity," *The Rifle Telegram*, 29 January 1915; p.5. (retrieved from coloradohistoricnewspapers.com, 16 July 2020.)

⁵ David T. Beito, *From Mutual Aid to the Welfare State: Fraternal Societies and Social Services, 1890-1967*, Chapel Hill and London: The University of North Carolina Press (2000), 6.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 2.

⁷ William J. Handley, "Masonic Temple Building (Denver, 5DV.136)," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, listed 22 November 1977. On file with History Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver.

⁸ Order of the Eastern Star Colorado website, (oes-colorado.org, accessed 5 October 2020).

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Matron, 1897-98), a local suffragist leader in Longmont.

The Freemasons took longer than the Odd Fellows to establish a lodge in Rifle, first attempting to do so in 1905, the year Rifle incorporated. Apparently thirty Masons resided in the vicinity, but momentum to form a local lodge did not gain ground until 1908, when Rifle Lodge No. 129, A.F & A.M, was chartered on 21 September; the appendant Order of the Eastern Star, Jewell Chapter No. 77 was formed at the same time. Both orders held their first meeting at the Odd Fellows Hall. Almost immediately, talk of building a permanent home for the lodge was a major point of discussion for its members and the larger community. In a 1909 newspaper article written just a few months after the lodge's formation, the improvement of Rifle's building stock was being projected for the year as one to exceed all previous, with particular mention of a home for the Masons:

Another building only recently decided upon is that of the local Masonic fraternity, which will erect a brick edifice on the present site of the First National Bank [believed to be the current site of the lodge]. This is to be two stories high and will extend to the alley on Fourth street. In the upper stories will be the reception and lodge rooms, while the first floor will be occupied by the bank, as at present, in the rear of which will be a banquet hall for use as the membership may desire... with the completion of this the Masons can boast of as fine a home as any of the fraternities of this section.⁹

Apparently the IOOF lodge was either not readily available for public gatherings or was not desirable for reasons unknown, for another article later that summer titled "Rifle May Now Have a Suitable Building for Public Functions" discussed the developing plans for a Masonic lodge:

There is a prevailing sentiment that, wherever the building is to be located, the Masons could accomplish considerable for the town by putting in an opera house, so that the public could be given the benefit of the better class of entertainments on the road, and at the same time such a hall would serve the same purpose for Rifle that an auditorium serves, on a larger scale, in cities. These matters, however, will be arranged by the order as they deem best, the first consideration being to have one of the finest lodge rooms in the west.¹⁰

Though local sentiment was made clear in articles such as this one, ultimately, the local lodge forwent a building that included either a formal stage or dedicated business space when its lodge was finally built.

In January 1912, the local paper reported that a Rifle Masonic Improvement Association had been formed to provide funds for the purchase of property and construction of a building, noting that half the needed amount had been raised and that the lodge was expected to begin construction by the end of the year.¹¹

Construction of Rifle Masonic Lodge, 1914

Possibly due to the challenge of raising the required funding, construction on the Masonic Lodge began at a

⁹ "The Building Record," *The Rifle Telegram*, 8 January 1909; p.2. (retrieved from coloradhistoricnewspapers.com, 16 July 2020.)

¹⁰ "Rifle May Now Have a Suitable Building for Public Functions," *The Rifle Telegram*, 13 August 1909; p.1. (retrieved from coloradhistoricnewspapers.com, 16 July 2020.)

¹¹ *The Rifle Telegram*, 12 January 1912, p. 3 (retrieved from coloradhistoricnewspapers.com, 16 July 2020.)

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much slower pace than originally anticipated. In August 1913, *The Rifle Telegraph* reported that the lodge was finally to let a contract for construction, noting that the building's exterior finish would be "stucco or concrete and pebbled."¹² However, work on the excavation and foundation did not begin until March 1914. By April, the design of the exterior had changed such that the paper reported "This official home of the local Masonic fraternity is to be one of the nicest buildings in Rifle, 32 x 64 feet in size, with a frontage of pressed brick and thoroughly modern appointments."¹³ On 3 July 1914, it was reported that "impressive ceremonies marked the laying of the corner-stone of [the Masons'] new home last Saturday afternoon [27 June] by the Masonic fraternity of Rifle, the ritual of corn, wine and oil, symbolic of the order, being used," with between 100-200 local residents in attendance.¹⁴

Construction continued through the summer and autumn of 1914, with various lodge members contributing to the project, such as Sidney S. Boughton (Lodge Secretary and former Worshipful Master 1908-09) superintending and E.B. Gittings overseeing the carpentry work. By December, the building was complete, and on 11 December 1914 dedicatory services were held, with Masonic officials from across the state invited and in attendance despite inclement weather, including from lodges in Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, Rio Blanco, Colorado Springs, Denver, Grand Junction, Palisade, and Meeker. Grand High Priest A. Riesnecker of Pueblo officiated, and 180 guests celebrated in the first floor banquet hall followed by dancing late into the night: "Everyone present was delighted in every way with the day's program and will remember it long as one of the most enjoyable social affairs ever held in Rifle... [the] lodge is to be most heartily congratulated upon possessing so fine a home, particularly in one of the smaller towns of the state." Projected in late 1913 to cost \$5,000, ultimately the lodge building was completed at a total cost of \$7,500.¹⁵

F. Elwood Jenkins, Architect

Little is known of the career of the Rifle Masonic Lodge's architect, F. (Fred) Elwood (or Ellwood) Jenkins, though he is credited with designing the 1913 Classical Revival-style Elks Lodge at 249 South 4th Street in Grand Junction (5ME.4162) and the 1915 Colona School/Colona Grange #259 in Ouray County (5OR.1173, State Register listed 13 December 2000). Born in New Brunswick, Canada in 1886, Jenkins had emigrated to the U.S. in 1909 and was living in Grand Junction by 1910.¹⁶ Jenkins first appears in the Grand Junction city directory that same year as "Boyer & Jenkins, licensed architects" at 230 Fair Building; this business association appears to have ended by 1913 when Jenkins appears in the city directory alone. The 1915 directory lists him with C.H. Branscombe (structural engineer) and E.R. Romberg (civil engineer). By 1917, there is no entry for Jenkins, and no architects are listed in the professional classifications section of the directory.¹⁷ According to city directories, Jenkins relocated to Denver by 1920 and was working as a draftsman for a construction company. The 1938 Denver city directory and Jenkins' 1942 World War II draft registration card indicates he was the Chief Clerk for the City of Denver's Building Department.¹⁸ Jenkins died in 1973.¹⁹

¹² *The Rifle Telegram*, 1 August 1913, p. 3 (retrieved from coloradhistoricnewspapers.com, 16 July 2020.)

¹³ *The Rifle Telegram*, 17 April 1914, p. 2 (retrieved from coloradhistoricnewspapers.com, 16 July 2020.)

¹⁴ *The Rifle Telegram*, 3 July 1914, p. 1 (retrieved from coloradhistoricnewspapers.com, 16 July 2020.)

¹⁵ *The Rifle Telegram*, 18 December 1914, p. 1 (retrieved from coloradhistoricnewspapers.com, 16 July 2020.)

¹⁶ U.S. Census, 1910.

¹⁷ Cara L. Miller, "Colona School/Colona Grange #259 (5OR.1173)," Colorado State Register of Historic Properties nomination, listed 13 December 2000. On file with History Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver.

¹⁸ U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942.

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The Rifle Masonic Lodge's original drawings are undated, but have Jenkin's licensure stamp, which indicates he had license number 7 in Colorado. The drawings are also signed by C.H. Branscombe as the structural engineer, Jenkins' apparent business partner.

As has been discussed above, the undated original architectural drawings prepared by Jenkins and Branscombe (see Fig. 3 & 4) do not reflect the lodge as built in 1914. Though the overall form and layout of the building is reflected in Jenkins' designs, the exterior is much more elaborate in the unrealized design. The most striking deviations from the building as built are the cantilevered overhangs above the second-story windows at the south, east, and north; the application of pebbled stucco over the brick; applied vertical ornamentation between the window openings; a secondary entrance into the first-floor banquet hall that would have been centered on the south side; and the reconfiguration of the front porch. The overall effect of Jenkins' design is reminiscent of modern designs from just a few years prior, such as Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple of Oak Park, Illinois completed in 1908. The reason for removing these features, whether the change in plans correlated with the construction delays, and whether Jenkins participated in the design changes, are unknown.

Role in 1918 Influenza Pandemic

Just a few years after its construction, the Rifle Masonic Lodge became a particularly important place for local community activity by serving as a temporary emergency hospital during the 1918 Influenza Pandemic. Newspaper accounts of the time, beginning in the early fall of 1918, document the increasing number of flu cases in Rifle and its vicinity. A 15 November 1918 article in *The Telegraph-Reveille* reveals:

The central Garfield County Chapter of the American Red Cross got busy on Tuesday [12 November] and secured the Masonic temple for a temporary hospital to care for influenza patients. At the time of getting the building there were two patients in Rifle who could not be cared for in local hospitals and so a place was badly needed...

By Tuesday evening two wards had been made in the building and four beds were ready for occupation.

On Wednesday morning John Hoffman, John Berry and Charlie Stotts were brought to the hospital where they have been cared for by Mrs. Barnes and Mrs. Joe Funk...

A committee in charge of the work is anxious to secure more bedding, linen, towels, and beds so that in an emergency they will have enough, or know on short notice where to secure more of such necessary articles. Everything donated to the hospital should be plainly marked with the owner's name... All things necessary for the regular hospital fare have been bought, but it would be appreciated both by the patients and the committee if the kind-hearted women of Rifle and vicinity could donate jelly, preserves, canned fruit or anything in this line.

Authorities in Rifle are afraid of an increase in the flu on account of large gatherings of the past

¹⁹ Ancestry.com. *U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014* [database on-line, accessed January 21, 2021]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2014.

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week. Precautions have been taken by many individuals and it is hoped that the disease can be stopped before it has become too badly scattered.²⁰

In the following weeks and months, the newspaper continued to report on who had been stricken with the flu, many of whom were sent to the "Emergency Hospital." In some cases, nearly whole families were admitted at a time.²¹ By the middle of January 1919, however, the number of severe flu cases had dropped such that the temporary flu hospital was closed, though flu cases continued to be reported in the newspaper for several weeks after.²²

Local Social Activities

As noted above, the Rifle Masonic Lodge has been the location of numerous social events for the larger Rifle community. Besides the regular hosting of balls, card parties, pie socials, suppers, and the occasional funeral over the years, the building has been home to such events as a Grocer's Club banquet in May 1917 in honor of a club member departing to serve in World War I.²³ Through the 1920s, Lodge No. 129 met in the building every second and fourth Thursday, while OES Jewell Chapter No. 77 met the first and third Friday, and Royal Arch Masons No. 48 met every first and third Tuesday.

Within just a few months of the flu hospital closing and the removal of its supplies by the end of January 1919, the Masonic Lodge was the host of a banquet for the Stock Growers' Assembly in April that year, with visitors from across the Western Slope attending.²⁴ Further indicating Rifle's position as a commercial hub among the surrounding farms and ranches and the lodge's prominence in the town's social scene, many other such events were held at the lodge, such as the banquet of the annual convention of the Western Slope Wool Growers Association, with representatives from across the state including The Denver Stock Yards Company and W.B. Kinney of Grand Junction.²⁵

Due to the closing of archives during the 2019-20 coronavirus pandemic, further social activities of the lodge as reported in local papers could not be researched past the 1920s; further research when archives are more accessible would likely yield further information on the Lodge's role in the community's social life. The Rifle Masonic Lodge's membership was 61 at the time the lodge was constructed, growing to 73 in 1916 (with OES members numbering 85), and reaching a peak of 298 in the 1920s. Today, membership is at about 25, though the lodge continues to serve the community through events such as quarterly lunches for emergency responders and programs like scholarships for local high school students.

²⁰ "Red Cross Establish Flu Hospital," *The Telegram Reveille*, 15 November 1918; p.1. (retrieved from coloradhistoricnewspapers.com, 16 July 2020.)

²¹ "Six in Family Have Flu," *The Telegram Reveille*, 3 January 1919; p.6. (retrieved from coloradhistoricnewspapers.com, 16 July 2020.)

²² "Flu Hospital to Close," *The Telegram Reveille*, 10 January 1919; p.6. (retrieved from coloradhistoricnewspapers.com, 16 July 2020.)

²³ *The Telegram Reveille*, 11 May 1917; p.4. (retrieved from coloradhistoricnewspapers.com, 16 July 2020.)

²⁴ *The Telegram Reveille*, 11 April 1919; p. 2. (retrieved from coloradhistoricnewspapers.com, 16 July 2020.)

²⁵ *The Telegram Reveille*, 2 January 1920; p. 1. (retrieved from coloradhistoricnewspapers.com, 16 July 2020.)

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Rifle Lodge No. 129, A.F. & A.M.

Name of Property

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"Fraternal and Social Organizations," 7 April 1916; p.18.

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No title, 12 January 1912, p. 3

No title, 1 August 1913, p. 3

No title, 3 July 1914, p. 1

No title, 17 April 1914, p. 2

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<https://www.postindependent.com/opinion/maxfield-saw-potential-in-rifle-valley/>, retrieved 23 July 2020).

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"Flu Hospital to Close," 10 January 1919; p.6.

"Red Cross Establish Flu Hospital," 15 November 1918; p.1.

"Six in Family Have Flu," 3 January 1919; p.6.

No title, 11 May 1917; p.4.

No title, 11 April 1919; p. 2.

No title, 2 January 1920; p. 1.

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SECTION V

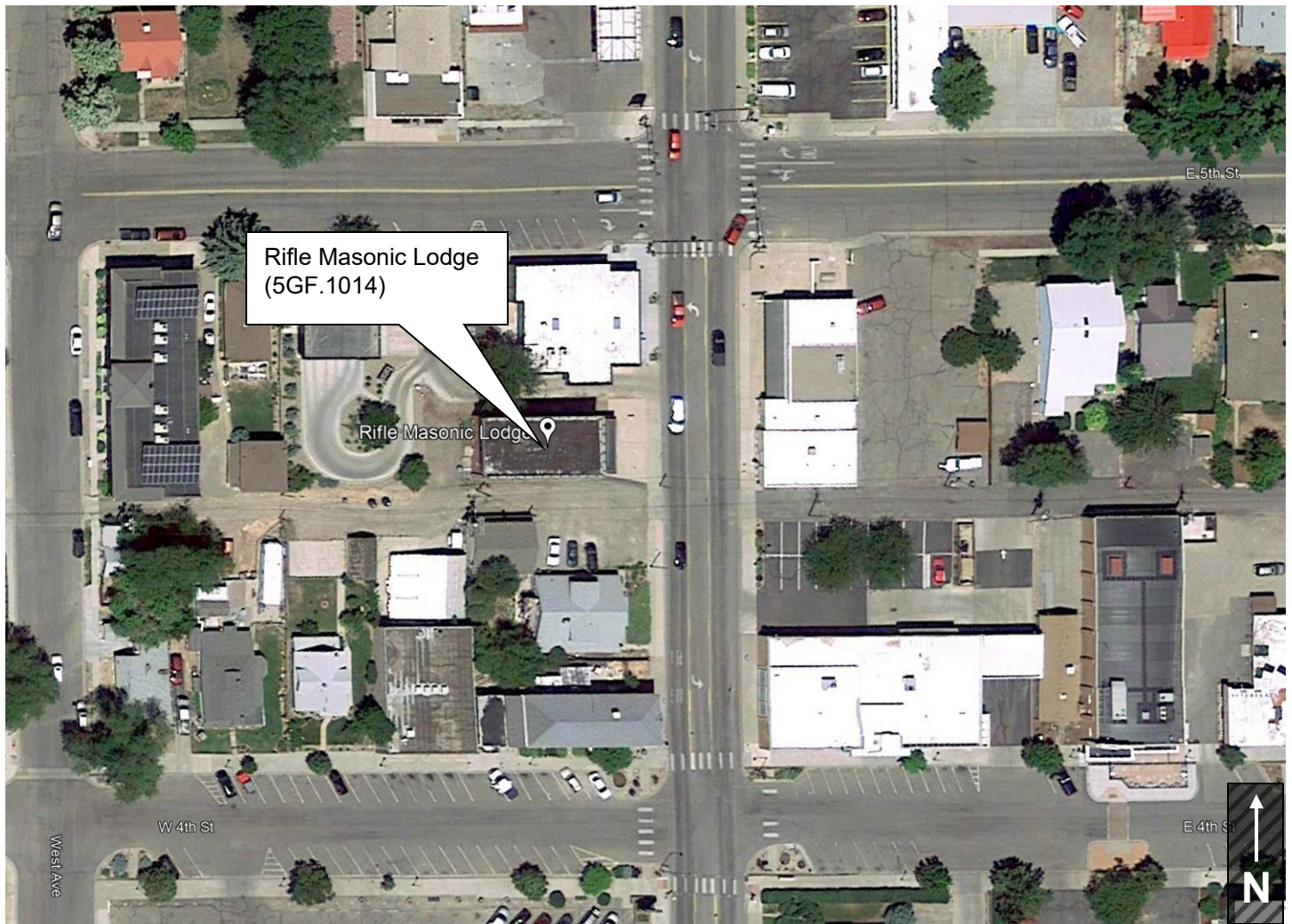
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description of Nominated Property

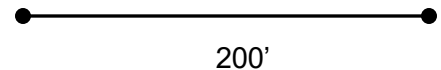
(describe the boundaries of the nominated property)

The nomination boundary follows the legal property description: Block K, south 50' of Lots 13-17. This is the same property boundary that has been associated with the Masonic Lodge since its construction in 1914.

Official Map (show location of property on map)



from Google Earth

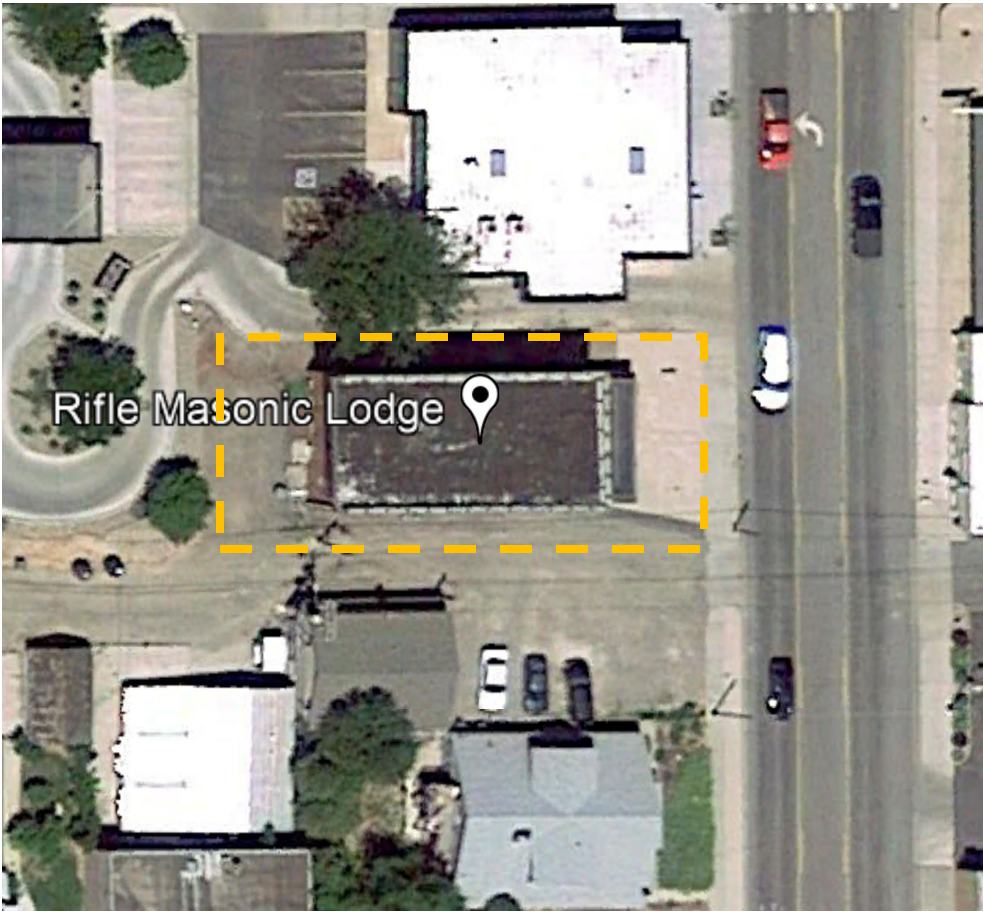



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Sketch Map



 Nomination Boundary

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

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SECTION VI

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photographs numbers 1-14, except as noted:

Name of Property: Rifle Masonic Lodge

Location: 421 Railroad Avenue, Rifle

Photographer: E. Warzel

Date of Photographs: 29 June 2020

Photo No.	Description of View and Direction of Camera
01	Rifle Masonic Lodge overview of east-facing side; camera facing west.
02	Close-up of east-facing side and front porch; camera facing northwest.
03	Southeast corner and south-facing side; camera facing northwest.
04	South-facing side; camera facing north.
05	West-facing side; camera facing east.
06	West- and north-facing sides; camera facing southeast.
07	Close-up of north-facing side at east end; camera facing south.
08	Detail of 2014 cornerstone commemorating centennial anniversary at northeast corner; camera facing southwest.
09	Interior of first-floor banquet room, looking toward kitchen and stairway; camera facing west.
10	Interior of kitchen, looking toward pantry; camera facing north.
11	Stairway leading up to second floor (door to basement stairway at left); camera facing west.
12	Interior of lodge room; camera facing east.
13	Interior of lodge room, looking toward doors to stairway (left) and candidate's room (right); camera facing west.
14	Detail of original knocker with masonic symbols on door to candidate's room.

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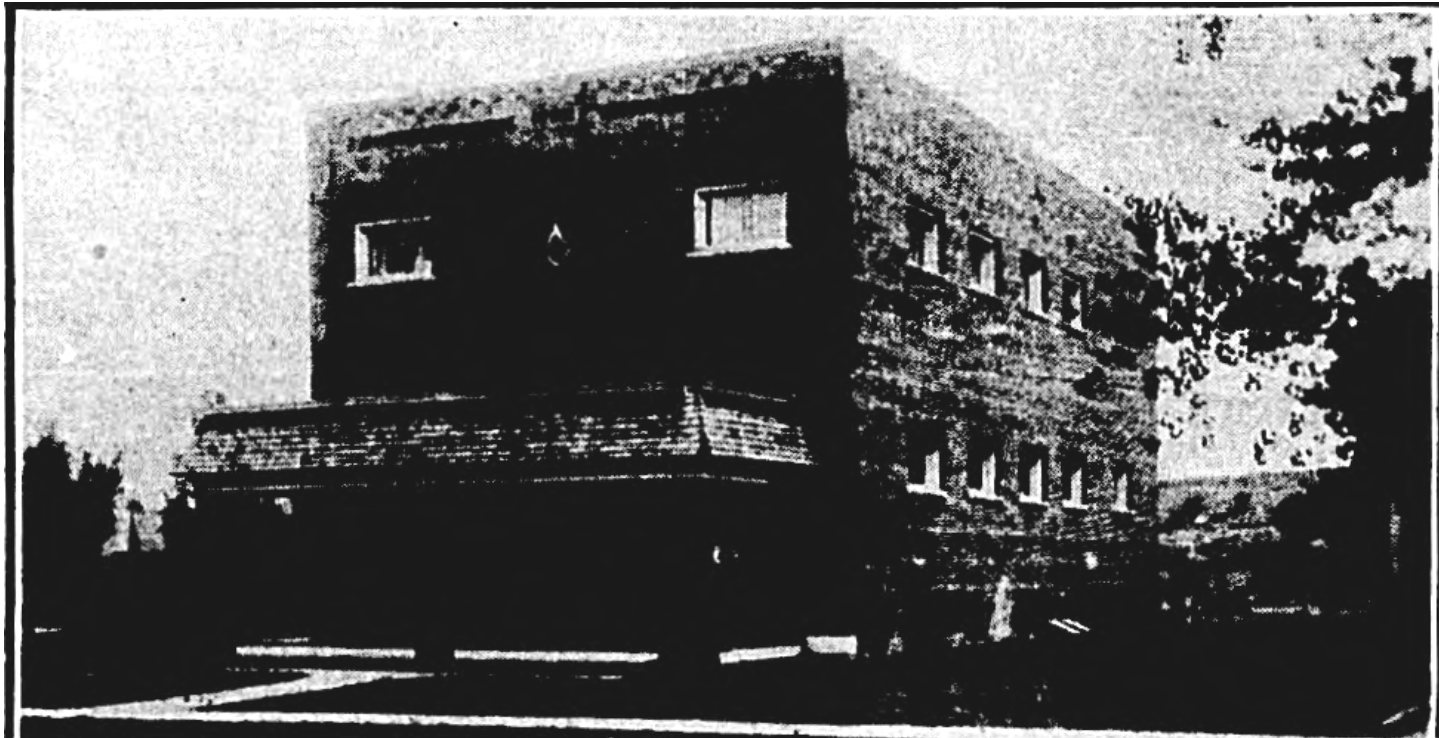
Name of Property

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HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS & FIGURES

(Insert available digital images of historic photographs and figures illustrating the property over time. Include captions with source information.)



HP1. Photo of Masonic Temple as reproduced in a 17 April 1916 article in *The Rifle Telegram*, p. 18. (Retrieved from coloradohistoricnewspapers.com, 23 June 2020.)

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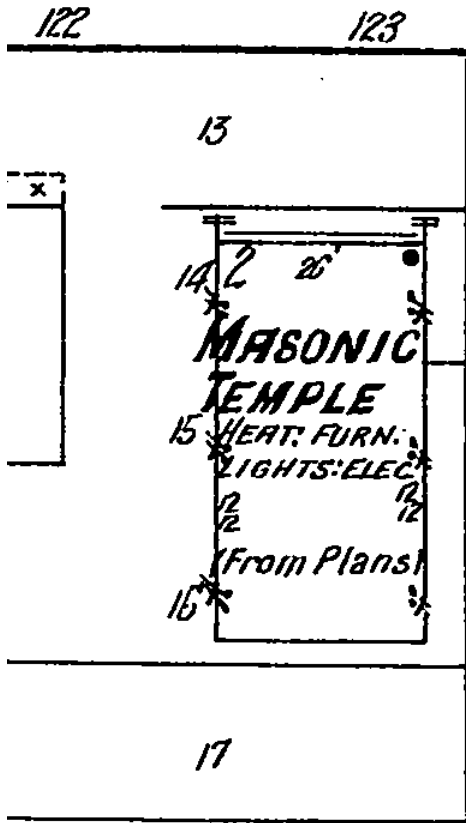


Fig. 1. Detail from 1914 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

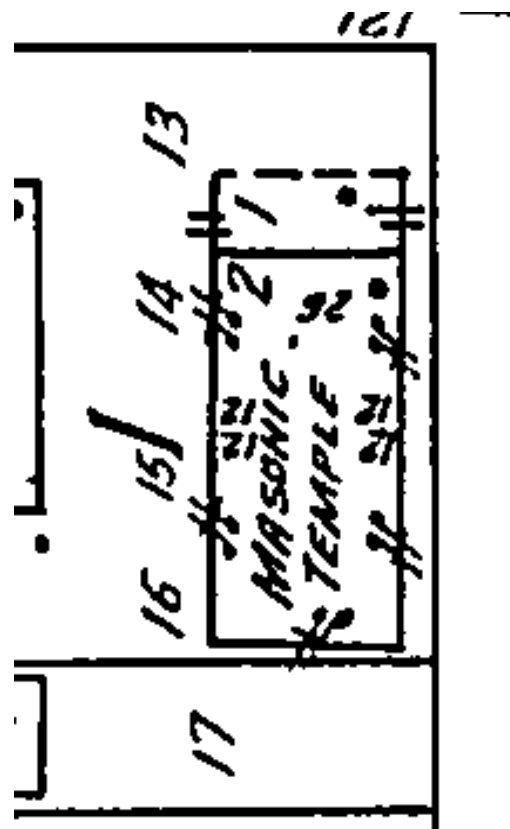


Fig. 2. Detail from 1939 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

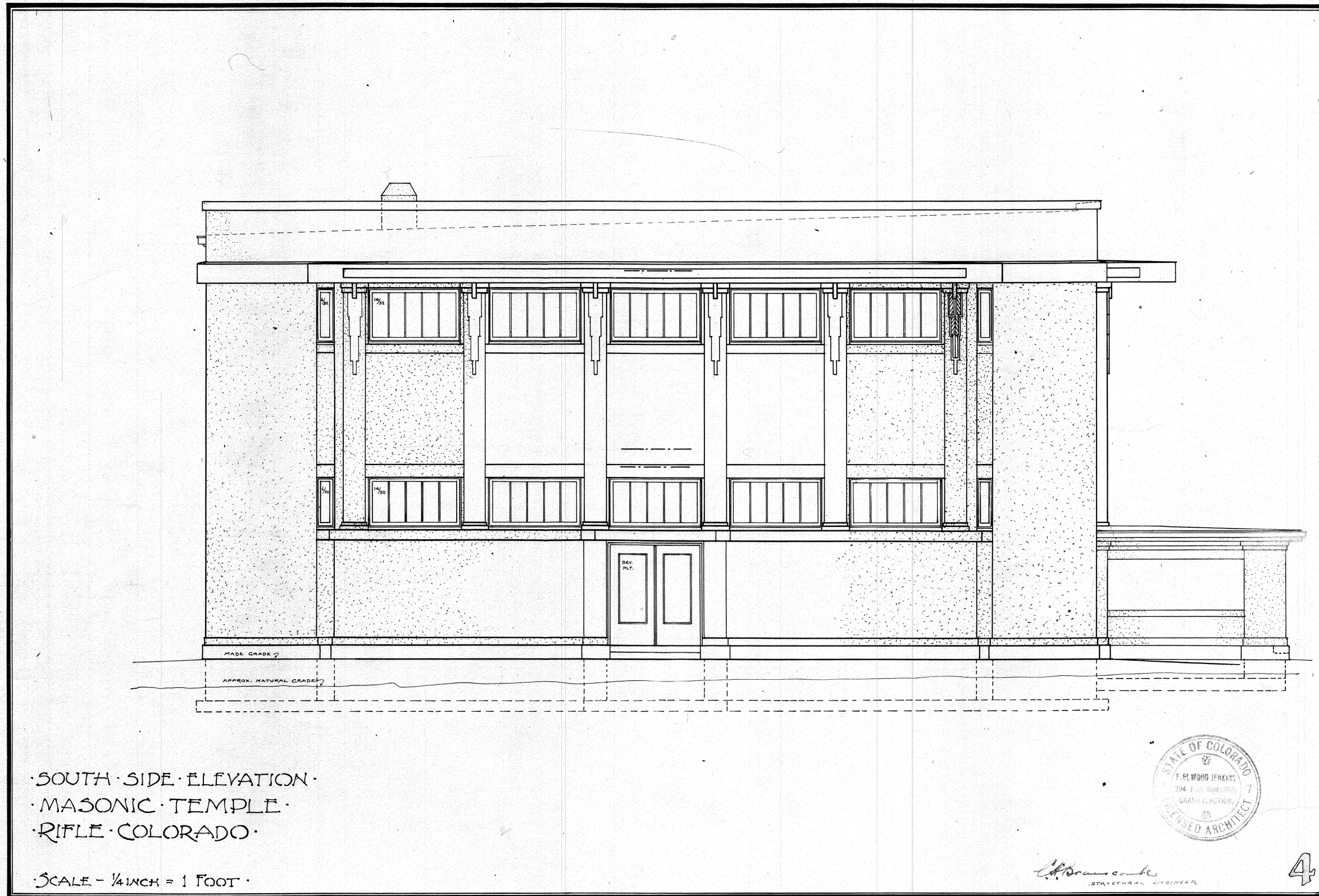
Sanborn Insurance Maps, Denver Public Library Western History and Genealogy Department.

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

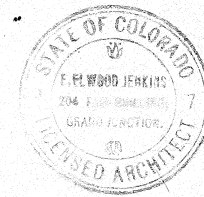
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Selected Original Architectural Drawings (not as built) – collection of Rifle Lodge No. 129



· SOUTH · SIDE · ELEVATION ·
· MASONIC · TEMPLE ·
· RIFLE · COLORADO ·
· SCALE - 1/4 INCH = 1 FOOT ·



F. Elwood Jenkins
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

4

Fig. 3. Elevation of South Side
Notice cantilevered overhangs above second story windows at south and east, and additional entrance with covered entry at center of south side (all unbuilt). Front porch at east appears to extend beyond as-built porch.

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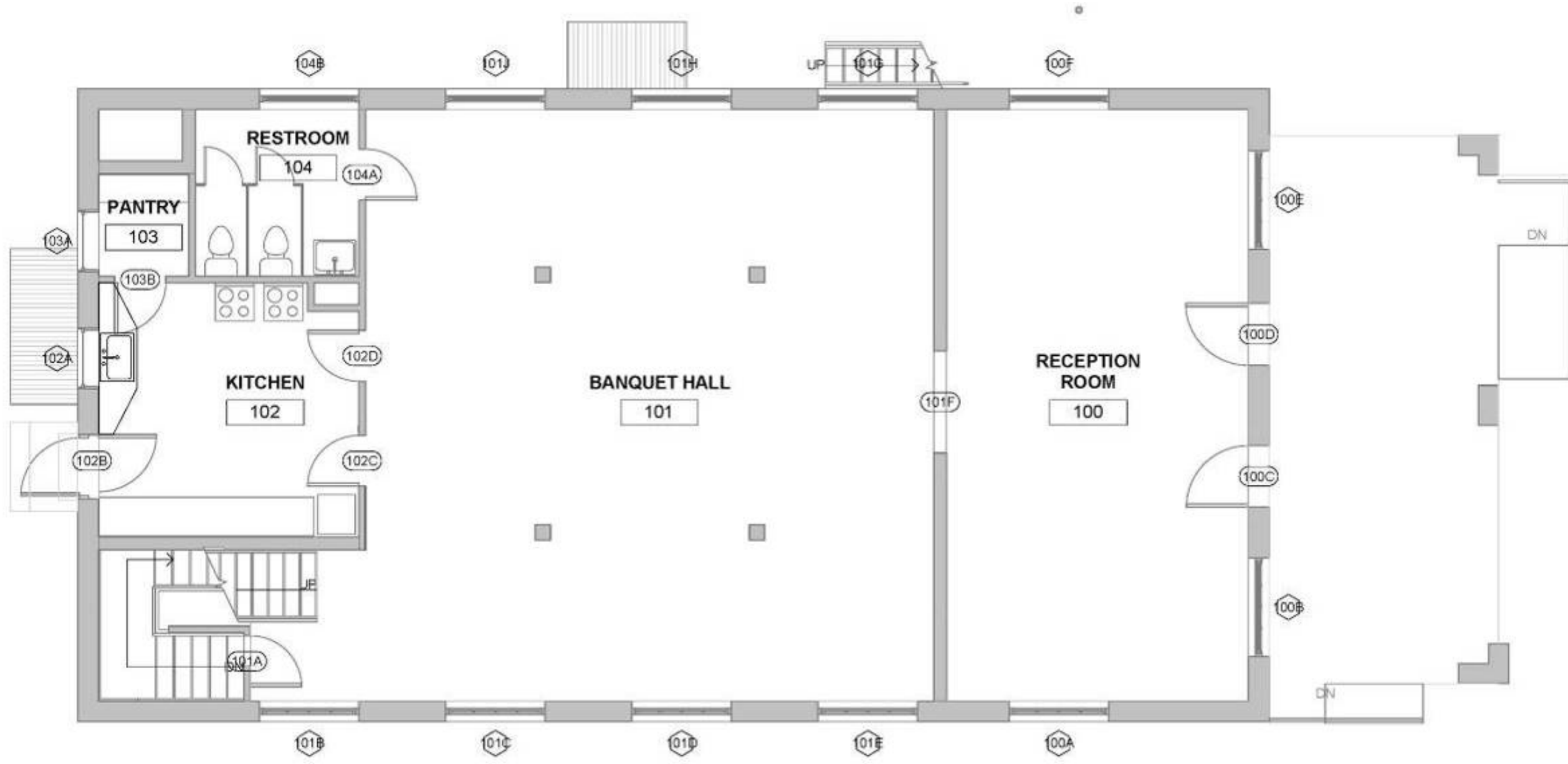
Fig. 4. West and East Elevations
Notice front porch at east is not full-width.

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As-Built Architectural Drawings, April 2018 (not to scale; courtesy Form+Works Design Group)



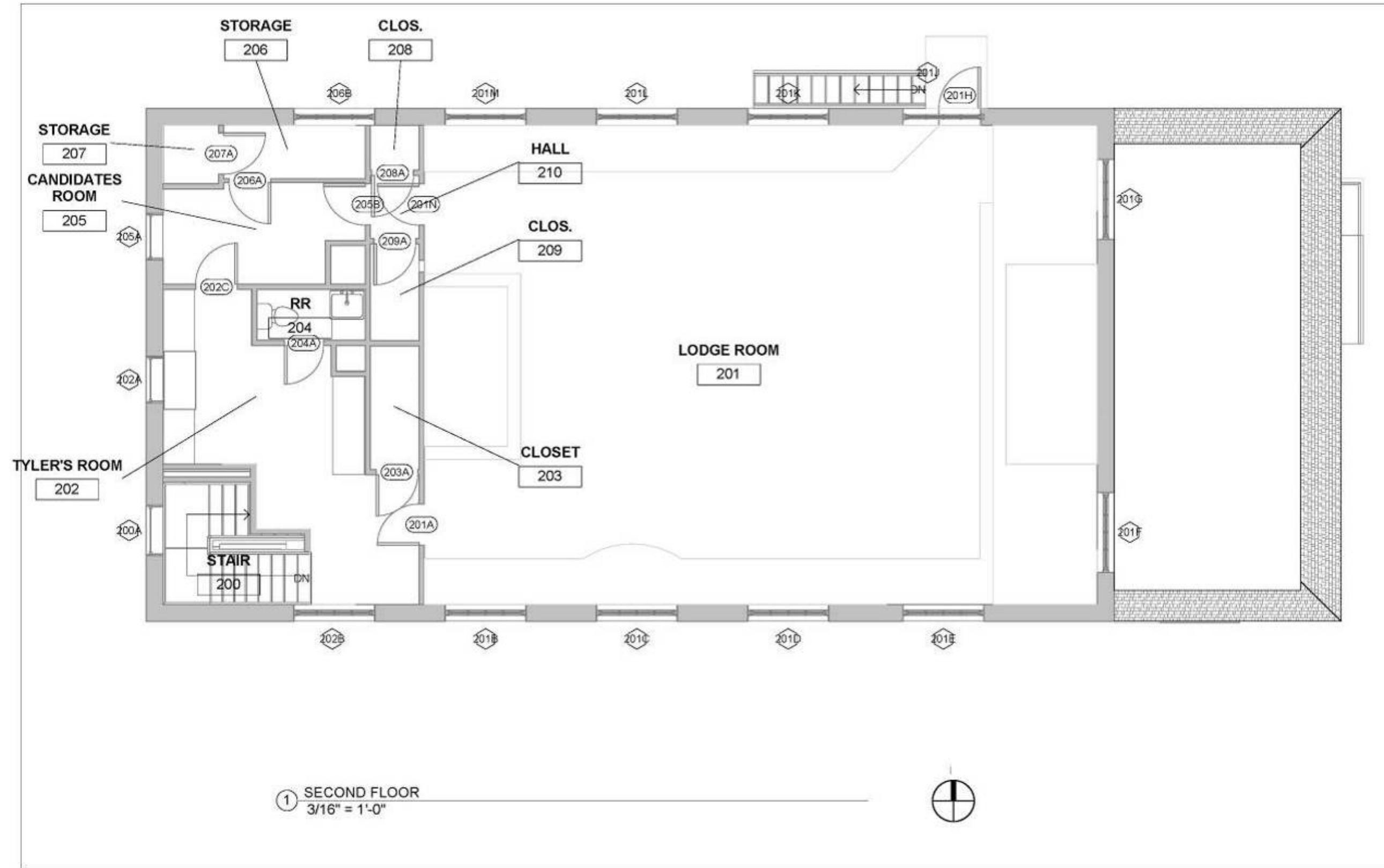
1 FIRST FLOOR PLAN
3/16" = 1'-0"



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SECTION VII

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS TO ACCOMPANY NOMINATION

Sketch Map(s)

Digital Images (separate files)

PDF of Current photos (see check-off list)

Owner Consent Form (Section VIII)

Use of Nomination Materials

Upon submission to the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, all nomination forms and supporting materials become public records pursuant to CRS Title 24, and may be accessed, copied, and used for personal or commercial purposes in accordance with state law unless otherwise specifically exempted. History Colorado may reproduce, publish, display, perform, prepare derivative works or otherwise use the nomination materials for History Colorado and/or State Register purposes.