

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Murphysboro Masonic Lodge No. 498 A.F & A.M

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Multiple Property Listing \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 2. Location

street & number 1115 Chestnut St.  not for publication

city or town Murphysboro, Illinois 62966  vicinity

state Illinois county \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance: \_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date \_\_\_\_\_

Illinois Department of Natural Resources - SHPO  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- \_\_\_ entered in the National Register
- \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register
- \_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register
- \_\_\_ removed from the National Register
- \_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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**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	
		buildings
		site
		structure
		object
0	0	<b>Total</b>

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social: Meeting Hall

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social: Meeting Hall

**7. Description**

**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: Concrete  
walls: Concrete, Brick, Stone  
roof: Asphalt-Rubber  
other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

#### **Summary Paragraph**

The Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498 was built in 1920-21 and is Classical Revival architecture in temple form and has maintained its architectural integrity. Balance and shared proportion are common design threads throughout this building both inside and out. The main Masonic theme is unity so it is possible the architect may have attempted to reflect this concept through architectural symmetry. The building is virtually intact and with only minor alterations. The Masonic Lodge is a contributing building to the Murphysboro National Register Downtown Historic District. The Masonic Lodge has sustained little change since it was constructed. Minor alterations have not adversely impacted its integrity.

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### **Narrative Description**

#### Setting:

Located in the heart of the community on block 16, lots 5 and 6 of the original Murphysboro town plat, the building faces north and is located at the corner of Chestnut and 12th Streets just to the west of Courthouse Square. The Lodge building is approximately 82 ft long and 45 feet wide. Jackson County Courthouse is at the center of the square with its back to Chestnut Street. Buildings surrounding the Lodge are mostly older and located within the Murphysboro Downtown Historic District. The north side of Chestnut has only one of the original buildings in situ. Smysor Park, a small green space, fills in the former commercial spaces. Sidewalks surround the building on three sides. The south side backs up to another structure but does not have a shared wall. Brick streets on the north and west sides complement the building's setting.

#### Exterior:

The building is a two-story structure with a partially above ground basement. The north facing structure is made of poured concrete, reinforced iron, brick and is appointed with stone. There are twelve matching double hung stained glass windows on the main level, five on the west and east sides each and two on the south side. All are on the main or Lodge Hall level. There are two double hung windows with transoms on the east and west sides closest to the front. The same design matches the two on the front windows. The fenestration is ornate with two symmetrical windows, a centered entrance with rising stairs. The building looks the same today as the day it was built with few exceptions: a front door replacement, glass block window inserts on the cafeteria level as well as a dropped ceiling and an elevator entrance for disabled access on the front. The roof is flat and composed of asphalt. There is a metal door near the rear of the building on the west side.

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Front:

Again, the Classical Revival design is symmetrical. The frontispiece is the most ornate section of the exterior. The entrance between the columns is recessed and covered with marble up to the top of the door where there is a bullnosed stone lintel. To the right and left of the front door are Doric style marble columns. There is a pilaster on either side of the center entrance and one pilaster on each front corner. To the right and left are symmetrically placed pairs of double hung windows with transoms. Each transom also has six panes with a keystone above each transom. The lower portion of the double-hung windows is one pane while the upper windows have six panes. Wood casing surrounds the glass and sashes of both windows which are surrounded by red brick. The columns and pilasters form a corresponding rectilinear shape around the window. Limestone fascia covers the lower portion of the entrance and is topped with a stone rowlock. On the Northeast side of the lower front of the building a window profile containing glass blocks was replaced with an elevator entrance in 2001. A corresponding glass block window is on the northwest front. Above the door is a circle-top transom with spoked muntins. The frieze is decorated with triglyphs and metopes and includes three symmetrically placed iron grills in sunburst pattern. The frieze continues around the corner on both the east and west sides with a grill above the double hung window and ends. A keystone is at the center of the roman arch. Above is an embedded stone plaque with the inscription "Murphysboro Lodge No 498". The entablature includes an architrave of stone triglyphs and metopes. The temple is topped with a brick and stone frieze with a centered stone plaque reading "A.F. and A. M." This is topped with a centered rising cornice and a keystone with coronets on each end. The entablature includes lower portions on either side of the cornice. They are brick with stone trim. The centered entrance has ascending concrete stairs.

Sides:

The west side of the building is more ornate than the east and rear sides of the building. The accoutrements are articulated in brick and limestone while the side and rear exterior walls are brick with only limestone windowsills, keystones, and accent squares. The west side is exposed to the street and the east and rear side have buildings within close proximity.

West and East Fenestration

The west side fenestration has subtle decorations articulated in limestone and brick. Foot wide limestone blocks outline the entire west wall giving definition to interior sections which are filled with bricks, windows, and limestone accents. The wall base has a two-foot limestone which runs the length of the building. An exterior metal exit door from the kitchen is in the rear section. A sizable brick parapet with limestone cresting extends past the roofline.

The north and south ends of the west wall have corresponding, but not matching treatments. Each end comprises approximately a fifth of the exterior wall. Limestone fascia outlines each section. The continuation of the front entablature wraps around and repeats the front entablature treatment. The southwest end has the same treatment as the northwest. Each section has a centered window with a limestone beltline. The beltline under the northwest window does not correspond to the beltline under the interior section. It is lower because the window is larger than the one in the southwest section. The north section window is a double hung window with a rectilinear transom and a limestone keystone. The south

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section has a double hung window with an arched transom with a stained-glass interior. It is the same size as the other windows on this side. The area surrounding the windows is filled with red brick.

The interior section of the west wall fenestration is mostly brick with limestone accents and has four identical stained-glass windows. There is a limestone beltline above the basement floor windows. Within the brick surface above the basement windows there is a brick rowlock. Above the rowlock and at the base of the main floor windows is a limestone beltline. Above the windows is a soldier course articulated in brick topped with limestone molding which is modified entablature treatment. All these trims are part of the wall construction and run the entire length of the building. This accentuates the length of the building and adds to its attractiveness. A large parapet with occasional symbols made of limestone with limestone cresting completes the building fenestration.

There are a total of twelve windows on each of the east and west sides. Six on the main level and six on the lower level. The windows are symmetrically placed and covered with protective clear glass and are all double hung style with transoms. Five of the windows on the main level are stained glass and one is clear glass. Each of the stained-glass windows is arched with a keystone center with accent squares at the ends of the arch. The Masonic symbols are centered in the top half of the window while the remainder of the design is expressed through windowpane design. The middle of each panel is primarily beige surrounded by a thin emerald, green line glass with corner squares in pink and green. The window perimeter on upper and lower panels has a celadon green glass border. The windowsills are stone. The sixth window is a clear glass double hung window with a transom matching the front windows and is closest to the front. The lower-level six windows were filled with glass blocks in the 1950s of which four are large and two are small. All lower-level windows are symmetrically placed under the main level windows.

The East side fenestration is much less ornate although symmetrical in relationship to window placement, type, and style. The east side is almost all brick. The northeast section repeats the limestone and brick wrap around treatment of the northwest side. At this point, the parapet is shorter and becomes taller above the fifth window. Drainpipes/ gutters run along this middle section and down the wall. The main level windows are all arched shapes with stained glass. Other than the northeast corner the only limestone elements are the windowsills, keystones, and corner squares. A soldier course runs above the windows and rowlock beneath the windows. A plain brick parapet extends upward and is topped with limestone cresting. This runs the length of the building until it reaches the northeast section where it changes to the ornate parapet matching the front. Another building is within three feet of the Lodge making it close to the next structure.

The south wall has matching double hung stained-glass windows topped with arched transoms articulated in brick with a limestone keystone, windowsills, and corner squares. The basement level has two windows filled with glass blocks. A soldier course is above the windows and a rowlock underneath the windows which runs the width of the building. The south side has a plain brick parapet with brown ceramic cresting. The limestone treatment from the southwest corner wraps around the south wall. A brick chimney is centered in the middle of the south wall and extends well above the roof. A small one-story building is within proximity to the south wall.

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Interior:

Interior Floor plan

The interior is relatively simple in layout. One specific thing to note is all rooms prepare guests for entry into the Lodge, the building's purpose. There are three sections on the main level, the entry, the foyer, and the Lodge Hall. Every section of the building is the entire width of the building. When one ascends the stairs, the Entry is open for the entire width of the building through the museum and the secretary's office. The second section is comprised of the Foyer, the preparation room and outer chamber. The foyer and entry consume approximately 1/3 of the main level. Entrance to the Lodge Hall is through the outer chamber. The Lodge Hall is a large room with twenty-foot ceilings and consumes two thirds of the structure on the main level. The walls throughout the building are pale blue, the color for masonic organizations.

Interior Main floor:

The building materials are consistent throughout the building. All door trims, mill work, and furniture are mahogany and in Arts and Crafts style of sturdy unadorned functional appointments and furniture. The walls are plastered except for where marble veneer or wood wainscoting has been applied. The entry floor is tiled with small octagon shaped tiles. The remainder of the floors on the main level are carpeted or wooden.

Entry: The entry is on a level between the basement and main floor. This offers guests the opportunity to use the ascending double wide stairs to the main level or the descending stairs to the cafeteria level. The stairs have marble treads and iron risers. Wrought iron balusters are on either side with mahogany wood handrails. The landing at the top of the stairs is an Arts and Crafts double mahogany door with surrounding millwork and marble wainscoting on either side. The floor is tiled with hexagon shape tile. Small open spaces are on either side of the ascending stairs on the main level. One is used for a museum and one for the secretary. Each space has two large windows and has painted pale blue plaster walls and mahogany Arts and Crafts trim. Floors to both spaces are wood. The descending stairs on either side of the ascending stairs lead to the cafeteria. Marble fascia lines the descending stairwell.

Foyer: The foyer is a large preparation room for guests moving into the Lodge Hall. There are rooms on either side of the foyer, the preparation room, and the outer chamber. Members move to the preparation room for vesting and on to the outer chamber before processing in the meeting/service. The preparation room has closets for vestments and members' coats. The closets match the millwork and are all original. All the millwork in the foyer is consistent with previous treatments.

Lodge Hall: The interior is pristine and largely intact. The room has two toned blue walls in the Masonic color. There are four symmetrically placed pilasters in the Lodge Hall. The ceiling lights in the Lodge Hall were recently replaced with updated electrical wiring and fixtures resembling the original. The millwork is original in mahogany stain and surrounds every window and doorway. Wainscoting or chair rail surrounds the lower third of the Lodge Hall. The upper walls are pale blue, the lower walls are darker light blue. Above the windows wood trim delineates where the white wall starts and continues to the ceiling.

On the ceiling are two large concrete beams, part of the support structure was incorporated into the interior design. They are embellished with a cornice and masonic symbols articulated in plaster and paint at the

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top of a pilaster. There are four pilasters with matching articulations. Due to the beams the ceiling is recessed.

There are ten windows, four on the east, four on the west, and two on the south. All are equally spaced. All stained-glass windows are identical. The stained-glass pattern reflects the masonic iconography of the compass, square, gavel, and "G." All windows are double hung style with an arch shaped transom with the upper and lower sash matching stained-glass design. Surrounding the outer edge of the sash is celadon colored glass which is contiguous to both upper and lower sashes. A rectilinear area fills the rest of the window's interior and is primarily beige glass. All corners of the interior shape are filled with small decorative squares. The upper sash has masonic iconography, a compass, square and the letter "G" surrounded by blue glass. The lower sash has a centered rectangle shape form in dark green.

The original floor was covered in 1948 with tile and with industrial carpet in the 2000's. Furniture and windows were specifically designed for the lodge and are all original. The furniture is the Arts and Crafts style and the same today as it was in 1921. It is birch and stained with a mahogany finish with dark green leather seats. The seats were reupholstered in the 1960s. Mahogany benches in Arts and Crafts style line the walls while appropriately placed larger single chairs for officers are centered on the north, south, east, and west walls.

The gallery overlooks the Lodge Hall and seats approximately thirty people. It is at the north end of the Lodge Hall. The gallery floor has tiered levels for better viewing and is carpeted. A brass railing runs across the gallery front. Side staircases from the Lodge Hall are on the east and west end of the Lodge Hall for gallery access.

Cafeteria Level: A pair of descending stairs placed on either side of the central stairs go to the lower level. The cafeteria level contains the Eastern Star room and The York Rite room, lounge facilities (restrooms), kitchen, utilities room and the cafeteria. The York Rite and Eastern Star rooms are at the bottom of the stairs on the north side of the building to the west and east along with the lounges. The York Rite room has two windows, one on the front and one on the west. Both are filled with glass blocks. The Eastern Star room has one window on the east side which is filled with glass blocks. The elevator takes place of the original cafeteria level window. Both lounge/restroom windows are filled with glass blocks. The cafeteria is in the center and absorbs approximately two thirds of the space.

The largest portion of the lower level is given to the cafeteria which is centered in the floor plan. There are seven windows with glass blocks in the cafeteria, three on the west and four on the east. The kitchen has two windows, one on the east side and one on the south side. The utilities/storage room has stairs with exit door along with one window on the south side. The utilities room was originally the furnace room. The tile floor contains the impressions from hospital cots when the cafeteria was used as a hospital/morgue after the Tri-State tornado. The lodge members decided not to replace the tile in remembrance of those Murphysboro citizens who perished in the disaster. A dropped ceiling was installed in the 1990s.

Changes: Like the Elks Lodge, the temple suffered minor structural damage in the 1925 Tri-State tornado, it lost a portion of its roof. After 1948 repairs and updates were made such as retiled floors and painting. There were a few minor updates to the interior during the 1950s such as carpet to the Lodge Hall floor and platforms for the officers' chairs. During this time, the cafeteria windows were filled with glass blocks. An elevator was added during the early 2000s to make the facility handicap accessible.

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### **Integrity Statement**

The Murphysboro Masonic Lodge is a pristine example of Classical Revival architecture. The exterior looks the same today as the day it was built with few exceptions. These include front door replacement, glass block window inserts, a dropped ceiling on the cafeteria level and a handicap entrance for elevator access. Other changes that did not impact the appearance are a door on the west side of building at the rear and the replacement of original furnace for updated heating and cooling. There were a few minor updates to the interior during the 1950s such as carpet for the Lodge Hall and platforms for the officer's chairs. The building's integrity is exceptionally strong with few exceptions. The structure is largely original and has sustained little change since it was constructed. It has been exceptionally maintained and there are no deviations from the architect's original plan.



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**8. Statement of Significance**

**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.)

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1920-1925 1943-1948 Social History

1920 Architecture

**Significant Dates**

1925, 1943

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation** (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Rudolph Z. Gill

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The Murphysboro Masonic Lodge No 498 is eligible for listing in the National Register under both Criteria A for social history and Criteria C as an excellent local example of ornate Classical Revival architecture. It is in pristine condition and 103 years old. The period of significance for architecture is 1920, the year it was built. The periods of significance for social history are 1) 1920-1925 the year the Lodge was built until 1925 when it served as a hospital for the Tri-State tornado victims and 2) 1943-1948 the period when the Masons allowed the government to use of the Lodge. The Lodge members and structure have been a significant part of Murphysboro's history and social life through disasters and celebrations. The Masonic Lodge is the oldest fraternal organization in Murphysboro dating to 1866. The first mayor of Murphysboro, John Ford, whose name is synonymous with the founding of Murphysboro was also the Lodges' first Worshipful Master. Its continued use and the scope of public and charitable activities over the years secures its position as a significant institution in the development and success of Murphysboro.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **Jackson County and Murphysboro, Illinois Historical Background**

Jackson County, Illinois was formed during the early nineteenth century while Illinois was still a territory and almost three years before Illinois was admitted to the Union on December 3, 1818. A man named Conrad Will came to be known as the "Father of Jackson County" because he moved to southwestern Illinois from Pennsylvania and proposed formation of a new county in Illinois territory that would later be named after President Andrew Jackson. Jackson County was formed from a portion of Randolph County by an act of the Illinois Territorial Legislature on January 10, 1816. The first named county seat for Jackson County was called Brownsville although it is believed that the first official county seat was in the house of Nathan Davis on the Big Muddy River from 1816-1817.

A two-story frame courthouse was built on the public square in Brownsville beginning in 1816 followed quickly by a jail. After a fire destroyed the courthouse on January 10, 1843, the state legislature passed a bill authorizing the establishment of a new county seat with a more centralized location within the county. After the courthouse was destroyed by fire William C. Murphy, John Cochran, and Samuel Russell were appointed by the legislature to select a new site for the county seat. Dr. John Logan donated the SW quarter of Section 4, Township 9 South, Range 2 West for the new county seat at Murphysboro.

In 1843, Murphysboro streets were laid out in a north-south-east-west grid fashion with Walnut St. to the north of the courthouse and Chestnut St. to the south. Locust St. ran east-west a block north of Walnut St. and Mulberry St. ran east-west just south of Chestnut St. Streets running north-south at this time, from east to west, included Cherry St., Main St., Broad St., Spring St., and Union St. The growth of Murphysboro was slow during the first decade. However, by the year 1880 it had a population of just over 2,000 people and had become more diverse. In 1888, a map of Murphysboro shows that the town had grown considerably in less than fifty years with a population of just under four thousand. The city continued to grow in 1890s and by 1900 the population has risen to almost 6500 people. Murphysboro became known as the "Queen City" of Southern Illinois.

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Salt and coal were important commodities for 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century southern Illinois and Murphysboro. Besides salt production and coal extraction, farming or agriculture have been important to the residents of Murphysboro over the years. The Illinois Central Railroad arrived in town by 1851. By 1923 Murphysboro had a population of around 12,000 individuals and the future of Murphysboro looked bright. In that year, coal mining was still an important business. Other important early-mid twentieth century industries in Murphysboro included the Mobile and Ohio railroad shops, other railroad companies, the Murphysboro Paving Brick plant whose products reached every state in the nation, and the Brown Shoe Factory. connected to worldwide markets. The streets of Murphysboro are paved with the product of this plant and many of the finest homes and commercial structures in the city are built of this brick.

Other businesses and services have contributed to the growth and prosperity of Murphysboro over the years. By 1886 the construction of the Mobile & Ohio (M & O) railroad depot had progressed, and the building was completed by late 1888. The M & O railroad was especially important to town businesses such as banks, building and construction loan companies, and other institutions who played a big part in re-building Murphysboro after the 1925 Tri-State tornado.

By 1940, Murphysboro had a population of just under nine thousand. It had risen slightly by 1950 to 9241 but showed a slight decline in 1960 to 8673. The 1960s found the population of Murphysboro increasing and by 1970 the population had reached slightly over 10,000 people. However, beginning around 1970, the population had leveled off and began a gradual decline to its current number of around eight thousand.

### **Murphysboro Civic and Fraternal Organizations**

The morality and ethics established during the early formation of the United States was influenced greatly by the development of fraternal organizations. This influence continued well into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The origin of fraternal organizations in the colonies came from England and brought ideas of morality and ethics which were foundational to American Society. The founding fathers of towns were members of various fraternal organizations. Social life, status, and political influence were often closely related to membership in these fraternal organizations. Likewise, entertainment and participation in civic society was enabled through the close relationships established by fraternal membership. Providing social safety nets such as health insurance and helping widows was a common activity associated with fraternal organizations prior to the establishment of government social programs. Overall, these organizations fostered the development of early American communities and continued to do so through the 1930s. Many of the activities associated with the Murphysboro Masonic Lodge #498 are described below. Fraternal organizations generally denied membership to African American men, so they formed their own. Women were able to be auxiliary members in the Order of the Eastern Star which was associated with the Masons. Women and African American men were generally allowed to join these organizations around 1900. Fraternal organizations and secret societies were at their zenith in the United States from 1870 to 1930. Fraternal organizations were instrumental in building small town America, helped create America's rural communities and were responsible for enabling wealth and prosperity therein.

Civic-minded groups in Murphysboro have a long and rich history. Beginning in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and extending to present day Murphysboro is noted for a wide range of fraternal and civic organizations. An early women's group known as "Anna Batcher Helping Hand Circle" conducted philanthropic work beginning in 1893 and celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1943. American Legion Post 127, Elks Club, Knights of Columbus, Lions, Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, Women's Club, Masonic Lodge, Eagles Club, Worthen Post No. 128 Grand Army of the Republic, Supreme Council of the Colored Knights of Pythias- Queen City Lodge No. 17, Knights Templar, and Moose Lodge are some of the organizations formed over the years to enhance the overall quality

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of life in Murphysboro. Throughout Murphysboro's history there have been several men's meeting groups of which the Masons are the oldest and still active in the same building since 1920. Major and important fraternal organizations in Murphysboro that had similar objectives and contributions over the years include the Elks, the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, and several organizations that included African Americans.

The Murphysboro Elks Lodge 572 had its first recorded meeting, April 9, 1900, in Dr. O.L. Daniel's office. The purpose of the meeting was to elect officers and to "perfect the organization of a Lodge of Elks in this City". Officers were nominated and elected. H.O. Murphy was named the first Exalted Ruler. On April 23, 1900, a meeting was held in the Knights of Pythias Hall for the purpose of organizing Murphysboro Elks Lodge 572. On September 21, 1900, the first regular Lodge meeting was held. Two meeting rooms were rented at the Van Cloostere building at 10th St. and Walnut St. above Square Deal clothing in 1900 and a lease was signed in 1904.

After 1910 discussion began regarding the construction of a permanent Elks Lodge in Murphysboro. R. Z. Gill was hired as the architect and the cornerstone of the new Lodge home was laid on October 12th, 1916. The new Elks Lodge was dedicated on November 28th of 1917 with an impressive ceremony.

Over the years Elks members were oriented toward helping the Murphysboro community as well as contributing aid on a national scale wherever possible. They accomplished this by recruiting members, conducting fundraisers, and finding ways to advocate for the poor and those in need. Some of the activities that were undertaken by large members during the early 20th century are presented below.

In 1900 a communication was received from the Grand Exalted Ruler regarding a devastating hurricane in Galveston, Texas. A committee was appointed to solicit donations for the flood victims. In September of 1902, the street fair committee was granted an additional week to give its report on its May Street fair. In December of 1902, the charity committee reported approximately \$200.00 worth of food and coal was distributed to the poor on Christmas Day.

In February of 1922, a bazaar was promoted that included shows, dances, and raffles of numerous items including candy, baskets, blankets, and two automobiles: a Ford coupe and an Essex touring car. The bazaar generated close to \$3000. Shortly after the occurrence of the 1925 Tri-State tornado, a special meeting was held in city hall, as the Elks Lodge building had been turned over for use in tornado relief for the community. In 1926 a committee was appointed for an Armistice Day parade.

The Fraternal Order of the Eagles chapter in Murphysboro began in 1904, six years after its national onset. The organization was involved in workers' rights and unions. The organization advocated for "Old Age Pension" and Social Security. Open to both men and women the organization was family oriented and sponsored large public events for the community. The membership grew quickly in size. Four years prior to the chapter's silver anniversary in 1929 they had a new hall built on South 13<sup>th</sup> Street. During the Tri-State tornado both Eagles clubhouses, the old and the new location, were used for tornado victim assistance. The Eagles organization was active until the early 1980s.

Beginning at the turn of the century it was noted that several fraternal organizations were established in Murphysboro that were comprised in whole or partially of African Americans. In 1900 a group of African Americans were allowed to join Worthen Post No. 128, Grand Army of the Republic which had been in operation since at least 1887. The Worthen Post No. 128 closed in 1941. The Supreme Council of the Colored Knights of Pythias, organized on April 17, 1880, in Vicksburg, Mississippi, contained numerous subordinate lodges. In 1901 these lodges included the Queen City Lodge No. 17 in Murphysboro. A third African American social organization both secret and segregated in Murphysboro was the Knights Templar. It is believed that

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most Black Pythians were unskilled laborers since the lodges were all located in southern Illinois coal mining towns where African American laborers were employed. The Colored Knights of Pythias performed much the same function as white fraternal organizations.

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

Freemasonry began in the early 18th century in England and Scotland. Freemasonry has its origins in the stonemason guilds of medieval Europe. Freemasonry is the oldest world fraternal organization, and it is also the largest. Its members are encouraged to believe in a supreme being known as the "Grand Architect of the Universe." Traditionally the Masons have been a fraternal organization composed almost solely of men who gather for mutual benefit, often for professional or business reasons. A code of ethics guides the behavior of members. The symbols of freemasonry are largely concerned with ethics and emphasize how one should live their life. Members gather in lodges, which serve as the headquarters and focal points where the Masons socialize, partake in meals, and gather to discuss the events and issues of the day. St. John's Lodge in Boston was authorized by the Grand Lodge of England in 1732 and today remains the oldest lodge in North America. Several of the American Founding Fathers including notable American revolutionaries and presidents were Freemasons. The origins of Illinois freemasonry can be traced back to 1805 at Kaskaskia where Freemasons established their first lodge. After the Civil War Masons flourished nationwide and by 1888 there were over 680 lodges across Illinois. Beginning in the 1880s a wide variety of charities were supported throughout Illinois, including children's homes.

### **Murphysboro Lodge No. 498 AF & A.M.**

The Murphysboro Masonic Lodge has maintained its vibrancy and community involvement during its tenure, from 1856-present. While there may have been some ebbs and flows, consistent member and community involvement is strongly evident whether the members hold Masonic ceremonies for members that have passed or allow local organizations to hold meetings in their building. The Murphysboro Masonic Lodge paralleled the national trend that began early in the 1850s along with the town. City fathers, bankers, and business owners were members of the Masonic Lodge. Their leadership and devotion to their community continued throughout the 1930s and 1940s and helped to ensure Murphysboro's growth and prosperity. During the first third of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the organization helped members' widows and orphaned children to survive through life and medical insurance offered to members. Members were helpful to widows and children of former members who had passed. There were very few programs to help families and widows until federal social programs established these long-needed opportunities in the 1930s. As governmental changes impacted work and medical services for families the medical insurance offered by the lodge became unnecessary. Many WWII veterans came home and joined the Masons. The purposes of the men's group changed a bit but not the original commitment "to make good men better."

The formal name of the organization is Murphysboro Lodge No, 498 Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons. The Murphysboro Masonic Lodge was chartered in 1866 at the 23rd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Illinois October 2nd and 3rd as Murphysboro No. 498. According to the Murphysboro Masonic Lodge 150-year history it is rumored that the lodge first met on the second floor of the Jackson County courthouse that was built in 1855. The location of lodge meetings between 1855 and 1874 is somewhat ambiguous, however from 1874 to 1884 the lodge occupied the third floor over the Andrew's block on South 10th St. In 1885 the lodge moved into one of the buildings on the Logan block of south 11th St. in Murphysboro. In 1886 a fire on the Logan block resulted in the destruction of the Masonic Lodge records and furnishings for its first 20 years of existence.

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A new lodge hall was dedicated in 1896 on the third floor of the Daniel Grocery Block on the southeast corner of Walnut St. and S. 13th St. where it remained until 1921.

In 1919 plans were made to erect a new Masonic Lodge in Murphysboro. This new building and current lodge building was constructed on a lot purchased for one dollar from Dr. Osmond B Ormsby at S.11th and Mulberry streets on November 3, 1919. The property consisted of lots five and six in block 16 in the original town of Murphysboro on Mulberry St. The property boundary was 93 feet 4 inches on Mulberry Street with a depth of 75 feet on S. 11th Street. Architectural plans proceeded shortly thereafter. Bonds were sold to cover the expense of purchasing the site and erecting the building. The membership compiled original drawings of what they desired. Subsequently, Rudolph Z. Gill, a lodge member and well-known architect, was hired to design the building. The building interior is like a much smaller temple in Hurst Illinois also designed by Gill as was the Herrin Masonic Lodge. The Murphysboro Masonic Lodge laid the cornerstones for both Herrin and Hurst lodges in addition to the Jackson County courthouse as noted above. The building was completed, and the first Masons meeting was held on August 21, 1921.

Since the mid-19th century prominent Murphysboro politicians, lawyers, physicians, businessman, architects, and other civic-minded individuals have played a prominent role in the operation and success of the Murphysboro Masonic Lodge. John Ford was appointed Worshipful Master. Ford was also the first Mayor of Murphysboro and Jackson County superintendent. Notable charter members included citizens such as William Henry Logan attorney and congressman, Mayor and Judge George Washington Andrews, and county superintendent Urbane E. Robinson, Jr. William Logan was treasurer in 1866 at the time of the Lodge's charter. There were thirteen members at the Lodge's charter when Murphysboro was twenty-three years old. Shortly after the Blue Lodge grew and formed branches of Masons; Royal Arch Masons 1874, Cryptic Arch Masons 1876, Electa, and Ruth Chapters of the Eastern Star which began in 1897 and are still active today. The Knights Templar Beasant Commandry began in the 1990s. Other charter members included John F Cover, a civil war veteran, county clerk and alderman and William Jephtha Fain a physician and Mexican war veteran. In 1870, John Banks Mayham was made a master Mason at the Murphysboro lodge and was also installed as Secretary. He was elected mayor of Murphysboro in 1874 and later served as city attorney.

### **Social Activities, Community Events, and Celebrations**

The Murphysboro Masonic Lodge members have provided a wide range of services to the community over the years. A variety of ceremonies, social events, and dinners have taken place under the auspices of the Murphysboro Masonic Lodge. An elaborate program was developed by the Murphysboro Masonic Temple AF and AM for the laying of the new Jackson County courthouse cornerstone on September 29, 1927. The Masons organized a large parade which involved the American Legion band, fraternal and trade organizations, city, and county officials, including the Jackson County Board of Supervisors and Masonic Lodge officers, among others. Lodge members also set the cornerstone for the U.S. Post Office in 1910 after inspiring the construction of the new federal building to honor lodge member and congressman George W. Smith who conceived the idea of national rural free mail delivery.

The Masonic Lodge organization had many meeting places in town and maintained a large membership, contributing much to the growing Murphysboro community. The Masonic Lodge, in 1924, hosted a barbecue dinner for a celebration of Armistice Day when representatives of southern Illinois American Legion post converged on the city for a parade, fireworks and dance. In 1940 the contest and parade were sponsored by the Eastern Star with the prize being given to the best decorated bicycle in the parade. Another example of an event organized by the Masons includes an Easter parade in 1949. In November of 1925, some 250 Royal Arch

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Masons congregated at the Masonic lodge to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Murphysboro chapter No. 164. Dinner was served in the cafeteria by Order Eastern Star and music was provided by Thompson's Masonic orchestra with various singers and readers performing. From time to time (November of 1926) churches such as the Evangelical Church of Murphysboro would hold suppers and bazaars at the Masonic Lodge with the public invited.

The Masonic Lodge played a significant role in the rehabilitation of Murphysboro after the destructive Tri-State tornado of 1925. The Lodge Room and lower level or cafeteria of the Masonic Lodge served as an emergency hospital and morgue. The tile floor still retains marks and impressions from the beds that were used in the temporary hospital. The lodge members decided to keep the damaged floor as a remembrance to those who died. The Lodge Hall was used as a hospital for more severely injured patients that St. Andrews Hospital could not care for. The Masonic Lodge was only one of several buildings whose basements were converted into makeshift hospitals. Others include the high school and the Eagles and the Elks Halls. Hundreds of storm victims were cared for in these emergency hospitals and at one point it is noted that thirty surgical cases were being handled at the Murphysboro Masonic Lodge alone. This continued for an extended period. The Ohio River Great Flood of 1937 left many families in southern Illinois without power. Refugees from the flood were given sanctuary in Mason's Hall, Odd Fellows, and the Jackson County courthouse.

In 1927 the 8th annual banquet of Illinois State Chapter of American War Mothers was held at the Masonic Lodge. The attendees were welcomed by Mayor Joplin and the program/ceremonies consisted of vocal solos, flag ceremonies, speeches and singing of the Star-Spangled Banner. Also, in 1927 the ladies' auxiliary of the American Legion 25th district Illinois conducted its annual convention at the Masonic temple. More than 75 delegates were represented which was supported by members of the Paul Stout Post Auxiliary.

In February of 1930, a public safety meeting was held at the Masonic Lodge where a first aid team of the Western United Gas company demonstrated artificial breathing and resuscitation. The drill team was headed by Murphysboro Fire Chief Albert Herring who announced that the team and equipment are always ready to respond to calls for help in cases such as severe electric shock, drownings, severe burns, wrecks, and other accidents. Members of the Eastern Star provided supper for the participants at the lodge. During the early 20th century, Masons from the Murphysboro Masonic Lodge, from time to time, conducted the Grand Royal Arch chapter school instruction for representatives from southern Illinois lodges.

In February of 1941, men and women members of the Murphysboro Business Association attended the association's monthly meeting at the Masonic Lodge to discuss various matters including efforts to locate a defense plant near Murphysboro. Mayor Eugene Compte and the members reviewed the efforts of the Civic Commission and heard from the principal of the Murphysboro Township high school and an industrial agent from the Gulf Mobile and Ohio railroad company.

During 1943-1948 Masonic Lodge members met on the third floor of the Willis Building on the east side of south 10<sup>th</sup> Street across from the courthouse. During those years, the Murphysboro Masonic Lodge was closed and repurposed for a variety of government functions during and after World War 2. The Masonic Lodge building was rented to the United States Employment Services and on Friday of each week in 1947, for example, the rent inspector from the Crab Orchard rent control office was in Murphysboro at the Masonic Temple to help landlords and tenants with their rental problems. After a five-year period, the lodge was returned to the Masons. Specific updates were made to bring the building back to its original condition at that time.



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The Masonic Lodge Centennial was celebrated on September 16, 1966, with Grand Master Myron K. Lingle. Activities included a dinner and speakers with five long-standing members of fifty-years in attendance. The temple supported seven branches of the organization at this time, Chapter No. 164 of Royal Arch Masons, Council #49, Order of the Eastern Star No. 379, Order of the White Shrine No. 85, De Molay, Rainbow Girls, and the Shrine Club. The Murphysboro Masonic Lodge celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2016. Mason's Lodges traditionally have been very prolific in southern Illinois. However, currently many have consolidated with the Murphysboro Masonic Lodge as it continues into the 21<sup>st</sup> century as the premier Masons organization in southern Illinois. The current lodge membership is approximately two hundred.

### **Murphysboro Masonic Lodge Architecture**

The Murphysboro Masonic Lodge is significant architecturally because of its very ornate Classical Revival style. The Masonic Lodge and its Classical Revival architecture are part of the Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century revivals in temple form. The elements used in the building design harken back to a period of classical architecture while incorporating newer architectural treatments. The Doric columns contrast with sections of brick facia on the fenestration and differed from formal classical artistic canons.

Though Classical Revival architecture at various levels is notable throughout the Murphysboro community there are only two other buildings that incorporate 20th century and classical architectural traditions at the level of the Masonic Lodge, the Elks Lodge, and the Jackson County Courthouse. The Elks Lodge was constructed in 1916. The building materials are limestone, brick, and terra cotta. The facia is brick with a centered entrance. Above the door is a limestone oval containing an elk head and fruit garland. On the second floor but a part of the fenestration is a covered portico with two sets of limestone paired Doric columns at the center. Above cornices support the dentilated entablature and a brick parapet with terra cotta cresting. The Elks Lodge architecture stands on its own and looks like no other building. The Elks Lodge was added to the National Register in 2005. While there are similarities shared between the Elks Lodge and the Masonic Lodge each structure is distinctive. The Jackson County Courthouse, built in 1926-1927 is also Classical Revival style, but notably different from the Elks Lodge or Masonic Lodge. The courthouse strongly reflects classical Greek architectural canons with a mix of newer ideas. Created from concrete and limestone, the building is a foursquare shape with the same design on all four sides. Four Doric columns span two stories and are centered on all four fenestrations. The front has a recessed section behind the portico with pilasters on either side incorporating different architectural elements. The Jackson County Courthouse was added to the National Register in 2015.

The Classical Revival or Neoclassical style is mostly seen in banks, churches, schools, and mansions. This style promoted a renewed interest in the classical forms and was seen at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Classical Revival style was more formal and monumental in its design and articulated the energy of the commercial movements in the United States. Relying on stylistic details of the earlier Greek Revival style, Classical Revival style buildings often have massive columns with classical Corinthian, Doric, or Ionic capitals, topped by a front facing pediment. One of the most distinctive versions of this style features a full height columned front porch topped with a classical pediment, a rounded front portico with columns and a balustraded flat roof, or a flat-roofed, full, or partial front porch with columns.

Elements of Classical Revival in the Masonic Lodge are found in the building's proportions, form, and style. Doric order columns flanking the front door topped with a classical entablature of triglyphs and metopes. The fenestration is formal and symmetrical. The front door is within an abbreviated portico that is flanked and supported by pilasters and Doric columns. The door is capped with a rounded fanlight. The lodge represents

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Classical Revival at its zenith because many different architectural elements from multiple traditions were used to design the exterior. The Masonic Lodge stands on its own historically and architecturally and continues to be an important property within the community.

### **Conclusion**

Murphysboro Masonic Lodge #498 is significant under Criteria A social history and Criteria C architecture as demonstrated above. Designed and built in 1920 by the local architect and Lodge member R.Z. Gill, the building remains a prominent landmark in Murphysboro and has changed very little. The Murphysboro Masonic Lodge is significant architecturally because of its very ornate Classical Revival style especially since there are only two other buildings in Murphysboro that incorporate 20th century and classical architectural traditions at the level of the Masonic Lodge. The social history of the Lodge is replete over time, from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century through the 1940s, with prominent members of the community including mayors, bankers, and merchants. Pivotal events in Murphysboro and the nation such as the devastating Tri-State tornado in 1925 and World War II resulted in an outpouring of important community assistance led by the Masons. The importance of the membership of the Murphysboro Masonic Lodge #498 to the development of the City of Murphysboro through its various charitable, social, and economic benefits cannot be overstated. Today the Murphysboro Masonic Lodge is the principal lodge in southern Illinois with over 200 members.

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>37.763452</u>	<u>-89.335851</u>	3	_____	_____
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

ORIGINAL TOWN PLAT 4' OFF W SIDE LOTS 2,3, 4 MINUS 43' OFF S SIDE LOT 4 BLK 16  
Parcel No. 14-04-391-001

Located at the southeast corner of Chestnut and S. 12<sup>th</sup> Streets.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Rachel Malcolm Ensor date Jan. 15, 2024  
organization Southern Illinois Historic Preservation telephone 618 201-7435  
street & number 1515 Oak St. email malcolmensor@gmail.com  
city or town Murphysboro state Illinois zip code 62966

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**

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GIS Map for Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498



Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498  
1115 Chestnut Street  
Murphysboro, Jackson County

Latitude: 37.763452°

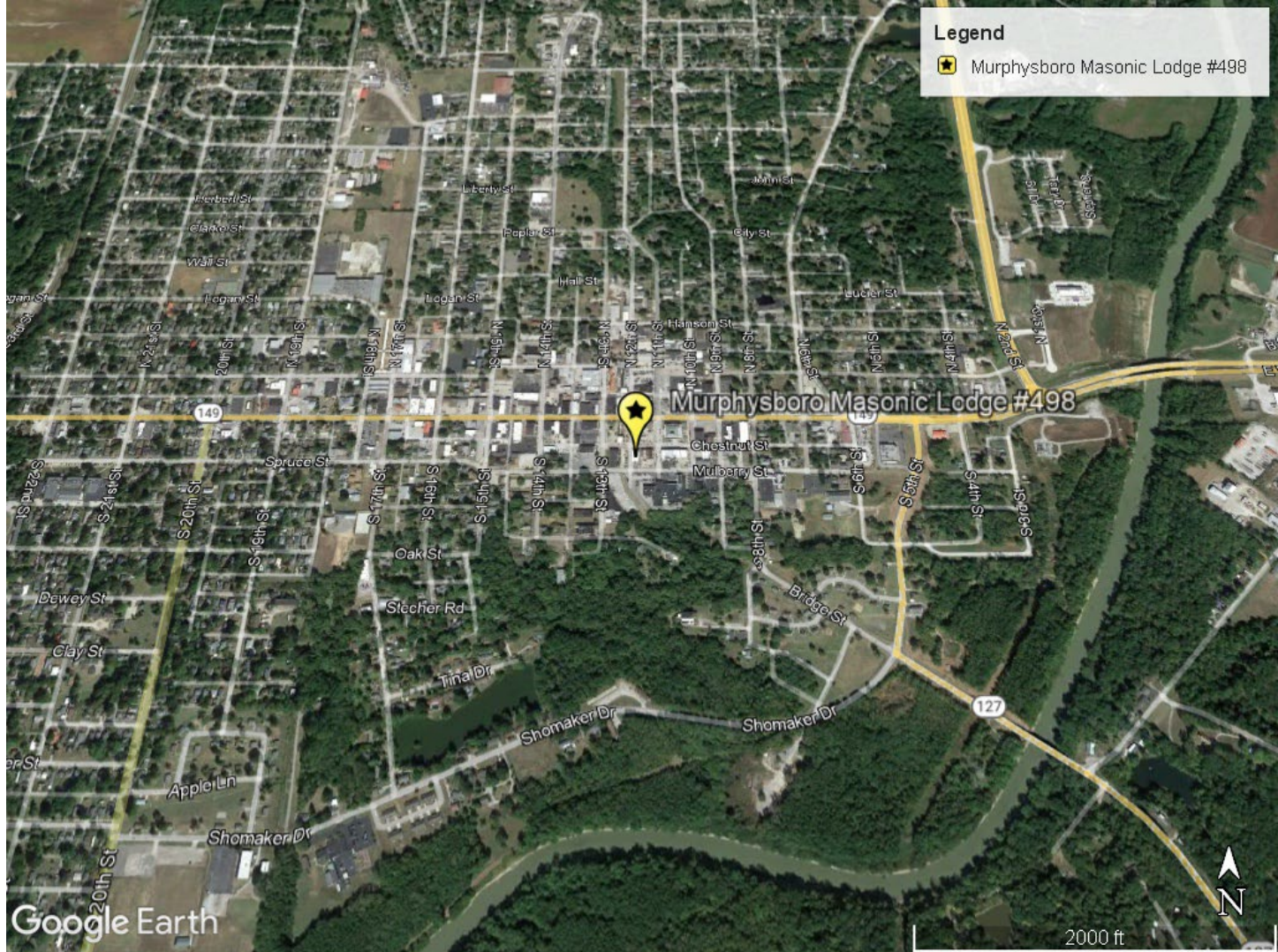
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Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498  
Name of Property

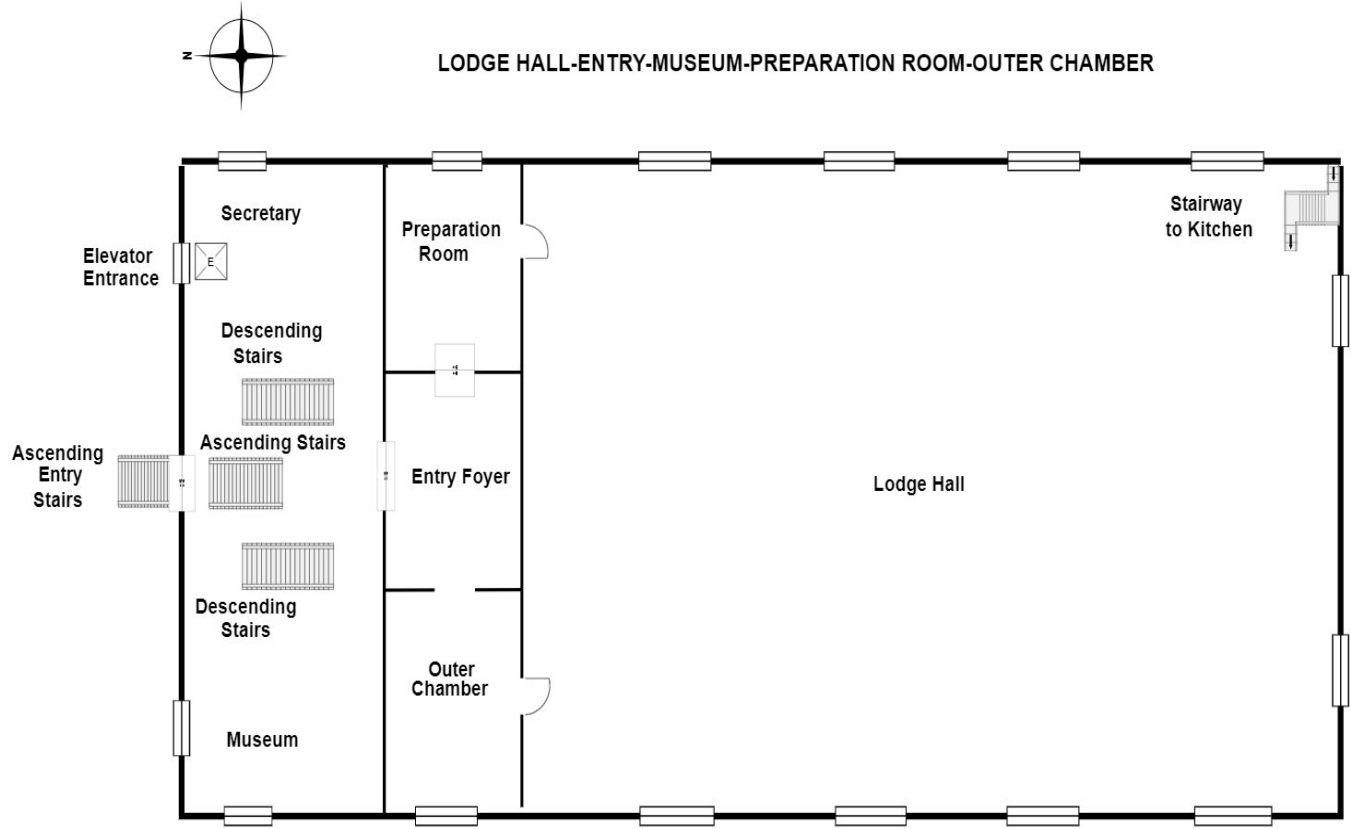
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Local Location Map of Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498



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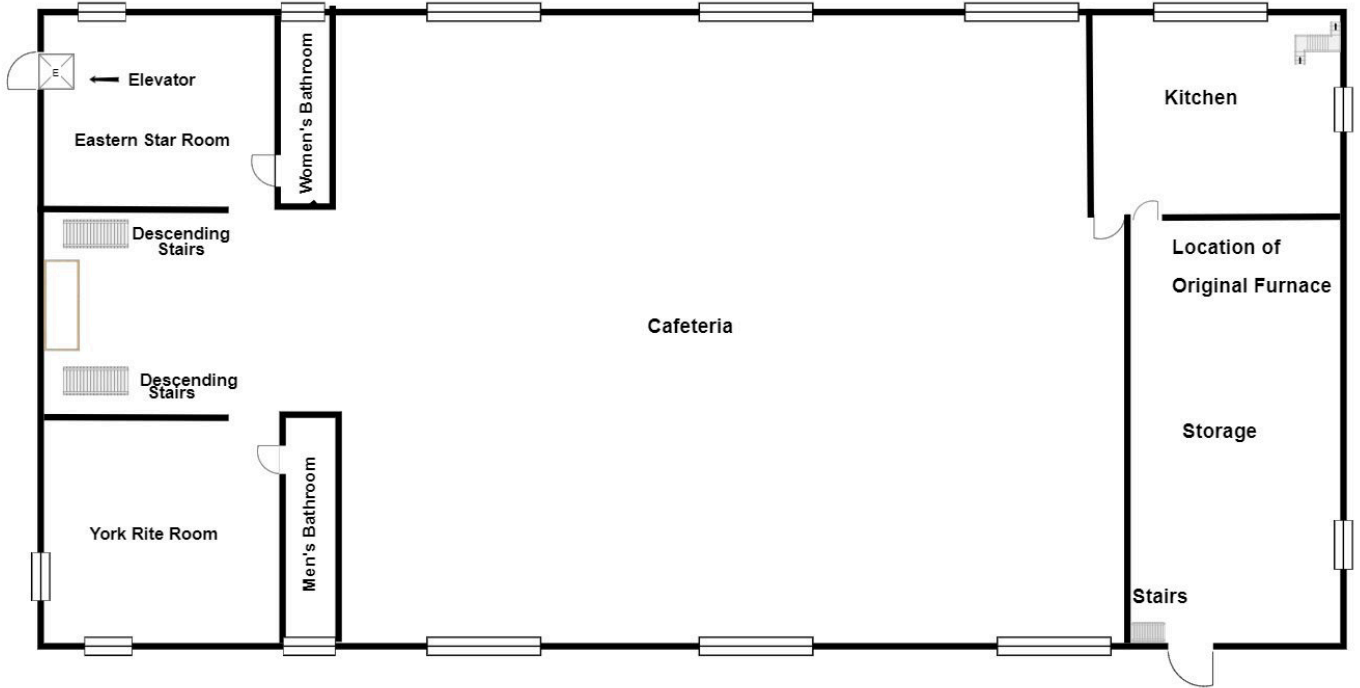
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CAFETERIA-KITCHEN-LODGE ROOMS



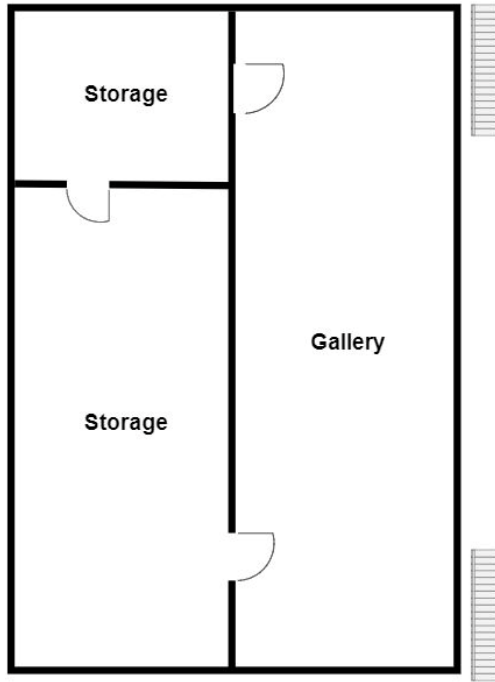
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**GALLERY--STORAGE**



Stairs to /Gallery--Storage Area from Lodge Hall Floor

Not To Scale

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered, and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

**Name of Property:** Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498  
**City or Vicinity:** Murphysboro  
**County:** Jackson **State:** Illinois  
**Photographer:** Blaine Ensor  
**Date Photographed:** 2023

**List of Photos**

- 1 of 23. Masonic Lodge Exterior Showing Front of Building and Main Entrance--View South
- 2 of 23. Masonic Lodge Exterior West Wall--View East-Southeast
- 3 of 23. Masonic Lodge Exterior--South and East Walls--View Northwest
- 4 of 23. Stairway Ascending from North Entrance to Entry Foyer--View South
- 5 of 23. Lodge Museum Room--View Northwest
- 6 of 23. View East from Outer Chamber Toward Preparation Room
- 7 of 23. Lodge Hall Interior--View South
- 8 of 23. Lodge Hall Interior Close-Up--View South
- 9 of 23. Lodge Hall Interior General--View North
- 10 of 23. Lodge Hall Interior--View East
- 11 of 23. Lodge Hall Interior--View West
- 12 of 23. Lodge Hall Interior-Stained Glass Window--View West
- 13 of 23. Gallery Overlooking Lodge Hall--View East
- 14 of 23. Lodge Hall Close-Up of G Symbol South End--View South
- 15 of 23. Accoutrements Close-up--View East Lodge Hall
- 16 of 23. Lodge Hall Interior East Wall--View Northeast
- 17 of 23. Lodge Hall Ceiling Light Fixture--View Southeast
- 18 of 23. Stair Railing Entry Way--View Northwest
- 19 of 23. Cafeteria and Kitchen Areas--View South
- 20 of 23. Cafeteria Area--View West
- 21 of 23. Cafeteria Window Close-Up--View West
- 22 of 23. York Rite Room--View Northwest
- 23 of 23. Eastern Star Room View Northeast with Door to Elevator



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Photo # 1



Photo # 2



Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498  
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Photo # 3



Photo # 4





Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498  
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Photo # 5



Photo # 6





Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498  
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Photo # 7



Photo # 8



Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498  
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County and State

Photo # 9



Photo # 10





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Photo # 11



Photo # 12



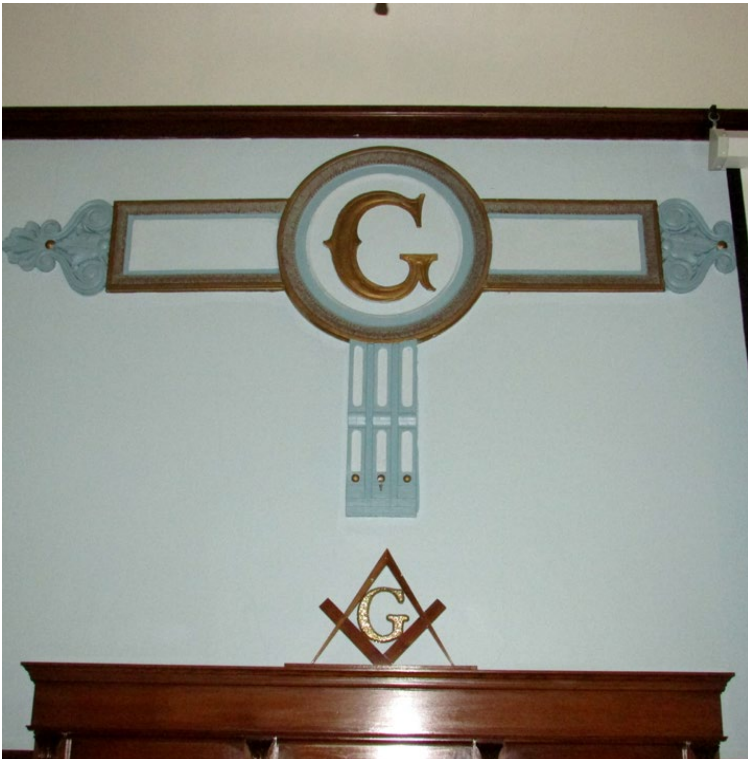
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Photo # 13



Photo # 14



Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498  
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Photo # 15



Photo # 16





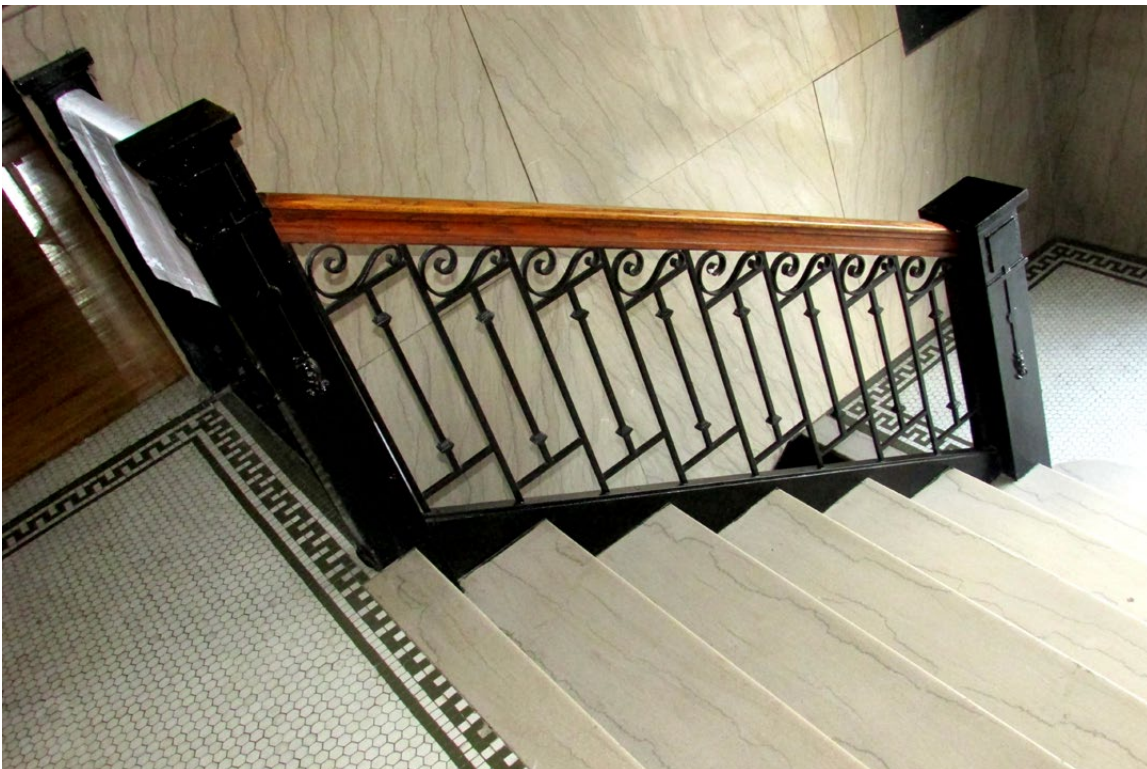
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County and State

Photo # 17



Photo # 18





Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498  
Name of Property

Jackson Co. Illinois  
County and State

Photo # 19



Photo # 20



Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498  
Name of Property

Jackson Co. Illinois  
County and State

Photo # 21

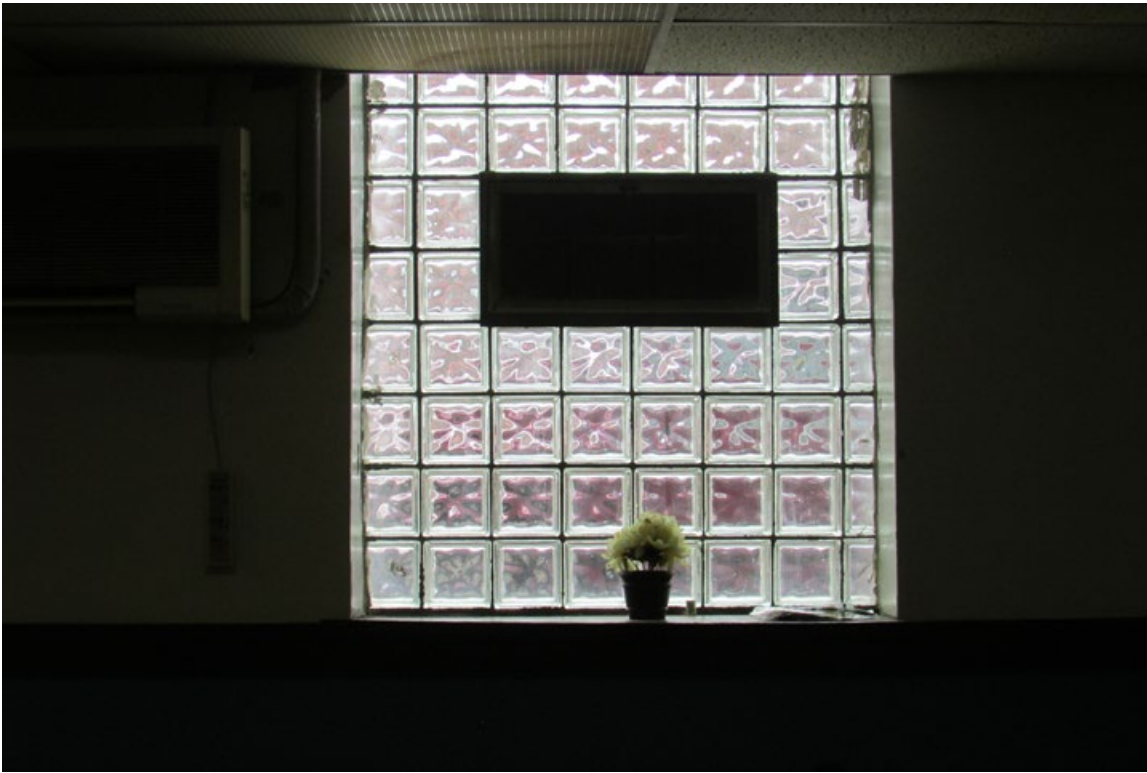


Photo # 22





Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498  
Name of Property

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Photo # 23



**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498

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## Historical Images

### View of Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498 Shortly After Completion

#### MASONS LODGE 498 IN M'BORO SINCE YEAR '66

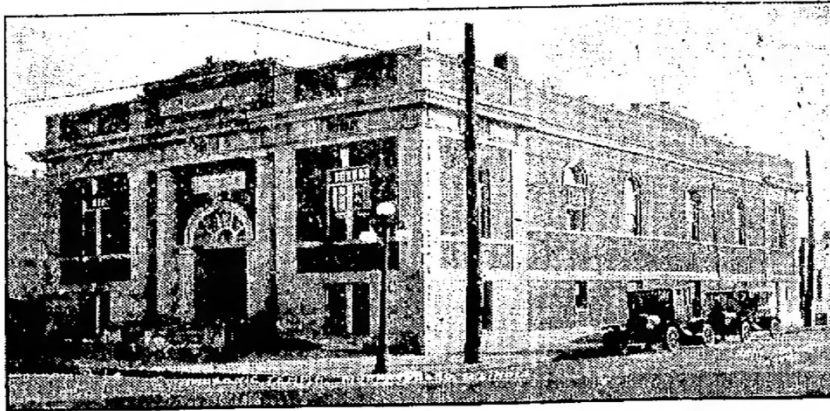
Murphysboro Lodge No. 498, A. F. of A. M., now housed in one of the most commodious temples in all southern Illinois at Twelfth and Chestnut Streets, boasts a charter antedating to October 3, 1866, and the Mastership of John Ford, whose name is honorably identified with the very birth of the town as an incorporated village. Hence the local Masons pride in the romance of age which hallows their Chapter.

Down the years of a half century and more came the lodgemen to the

Officers, 1923—S. R. Plant, W. M.; W. P. Bein, S. W.; C. B. McNeilly, J. W.; F. B. Hall, Treas.; W. H. Jones, Secy.; A. G. Jauss, S. D.; W. E. Christie, J. D.; F. L. Barham, S. S.; P. G. Armm, J. S.; O. D. Fisher, Mar.; J. R. Hathaway, Tyler.

#### The Masters

John Ford, Master 1867, 1868-1872.  
Chas. Sherner, Master 1869-1870.  
Lemuel Wilson, Master, 1871.  
R. J. Young, Master 1873-1886-1887.  
T. F. Hord, Master 1874.  
E. B. Pellett, Master 1875.  
A. A. McGahey, Master 1876-1883-1889-1892-1898.  
R. W. Hamilton, Master 1877.  
Geo. W. Smith, Master 1878-79-1888.  
W. L. Murphy, Master, 1880-1881.  
Geo. W. Hill, Master, 1882.  
Geo. Michoelis, Master 1884-85.



MASONIC TEMPLE,  
Corner Chestnut and Twelfth Sts.

time and day, July 8, 1920, of the laying of the Temple cornerstone. Weather belated the occupancy of the edifice, but on August 27, of the next year, the first meeting within its walls was held. Dedication came by the Grand Lodge of Illinois, September 22, 1921.

Building and furnishings represent an expenditure of \$70,000 and the Temple will remain for decades to come one of the architectural show places of the city.

Officers, 1866—John Ford, W. M.; William Fain, S. W.; E. W. Phillips, J. W.; U. E. Robinson, Treas.; Geo. W. Andrews, Secy.; Chas. W. Scherner, S. D.; J. A. Werner, J. D.; J. F. Pover, S. S.; Alexander Imhoff, J. S. Joseph Cummins, Tyler.

A. B. Galliton, Master 1890-1891.  
J. M. Herbert, Master 1893-1894.  
J. A. White, Master 1895-1896-1897-1900.  
David Christie, Master 1899.  
Henry Stein, Master, 1900.  
J. A. Prickett, Master 1901.  
W. B. Miller, Master, 1902.  
Harris Levy, Master, 1903-1904-1907.  
W. Edmonds, Master 1905.  
F. B. Hall, Master 1908.  
Solomon Hendricks, Master 1909.  
G. J. Koons, Master, 1910-1911-1914.  
J. R. Hathaway, Master, 1912-1913.  
W. J. Tily, Master 1915-1916.  
W. R. Wright, Master 1917-1918.  
W. H. Davis, Master 1919-1920.  
J. H. Hrabik, Master 1921.  
A. G. Schraeder, Master 1922.  
S. R. Plant, Master 1923.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498

Name of Property

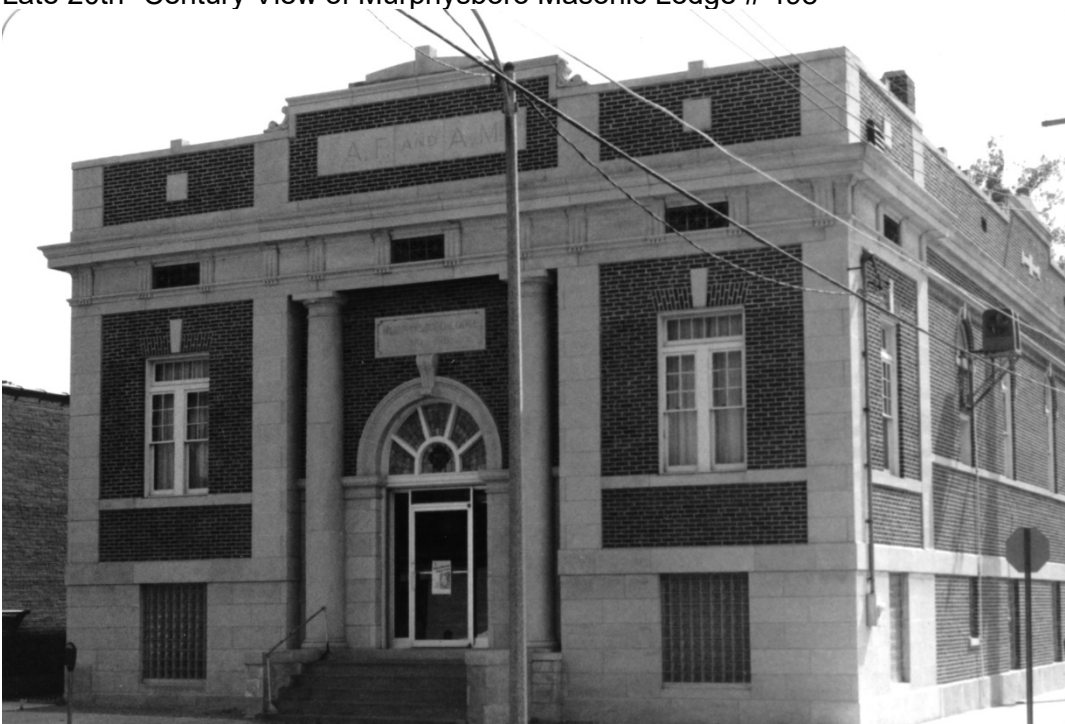
Jackson Co., Illinois

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Late 20th<sup>h</sup> Century View of Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498



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## Former Murphysboro Masonic Lodge # 498 Members

