

**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 determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Greeley Masonic Temple

other names/site number 5WL4159

**2. Location**

street & number 829 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue [N/A] not for publication

city or town Greeley [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Weld code 123 zip code 80631

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally. ( [ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- [ ] entered in the National Register [ ] See continuation sheet.
- [ ] determined eligible for the National Register [ ] See continuation sheet.
- [ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
- [ ] removed from the National Register
- [ ] other, explain \_\_\_\_\_  
[ ] See continuation sheet.

Greeley Masonic Temple  
Name of Property

Weld County, Colorado  
County/State

### 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 count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

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

0

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Function**

(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:  
Colonial Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls Brick  
roof Asphalt  
other

**Narrative Description**

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

Greeley Masonic Temple  
Name of Property

Weld County, Colorado  
County/State

### 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Social History

**Periods of Significance**  
1927-1954

**Significant Dates**  
N/A

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

**Cultural Affiliation**  
N/A

**Architect/Builder**  
Bowman, William N.

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

# \_\_\_\_\_

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  
Colorado Historical Society  
City of Greeley Historic Preservation Office

Greeley Masonic Temple  
Name of Property

Weld County, Colorado  
County/State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- |    |      |         |          |                            |
|----|------|---------|----------|----------------------------|
| 1. | 13   | 525939  | 4474679  | (NAD27)                    |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |                            |
| 2. |      |         |          |                            |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |                            |
| 3. |      |         |          |                            |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |                            |
| 4. |      |         |          |                            |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing | [ ] See continuation sheet |

### Verbal Boundary Description

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

### Boundary Justification

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

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beverly Abell, Executive Director  
organization Greeley Downtown Development Authority date February 11, 2004  
street & number 822 – 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 750 telephone 970-356-6775  
city or town Greeley state CO zip code 80631

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

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

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

### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional Items

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

## Property Owner

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

name Masonic Building Corporation of Greeley, Colorado  
street & number 829 – 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Greeley state CO zip code 80631

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

Greeley Masonic Temple

Weld County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 1**DESCRIPTION**

The 1927 Greeley Masonic Temple sits centered on half of the city block on the northwest corner of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 9<sup>th</sup> Street. This location is in the heart of downtown Greeley, just west across the street from Lincoln Park. While the building fronts east onto the concrete sidewalk paralleling 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the south side has a sidewalk separated from the street by a belt of tree lawn, typical of Greeley streets.

The Greeley Masonic Temple is two-story building, rectangular in plan, measuring fifty feet wide by eighty feet long, and is primarily built of variegated brown brick. The brick is laid in an English bond pattern of seven courses of headers and one course of headers. The facade is divided into three bays. Blond brick pilasters in running bond with stone capitals bracket the corners of the facade. Both the front (east) and rear (west) elevations have shaped parapets which conceal the ends of the gently-pitch front gable roof.

Centered near the top of the front gable parapet is a round, stone-rimmed, fixed oculus or bull's eye window with four keystone accents at the cardinal compass points. Centered under this window are three, six-light windows. These windows, like all those in the building, have blond brick soldier course lintels and brown brick rowlock sills. The second-story center bay has two paired, eight-light casement windows. These paired windows are fronted by a wrought iron balconet and flanked by slightly larger, paired, eight-light casement windows. The lintels are augmented with centered stone keystones. The first story has a central entrance with fully glazed, double, aluminum-frame doors in the middle bay. A semi-circular brick lintel arches over the door, accented by a keystone at the apex of the arch. Inside the arch, the wall is stuccoed with the blue, painted stucco serving as background for the Masonic compass and square symbol centered above the door. On the two side bays are paired, eight-light casement windows with keystoned lintels. A concrete stoop in front of the door is accessed on the north by steps and by a pedestrian ramp on the south. Lanterns flank the entrance and a sandstone cornerstone on the northeast corner reads "A.D. 1883" and "A.L. 5883."

The sides of the building have brick walls to the soffit with virtually no overhang from the sloping gabled roof. The east ends of both the south and north sides have slightly projecting bays with molded cornices and multi-light, double-hung, sash windows with blond brick lintels on each story. Moving west from the projecting bays on both sides of the building are multi-paned, double-hung, sash windows with blond brick lintels on both sides. The south side has eight such windows, four on each story, with the second-story windows exactly above those on the first story. The north side of the building has six such windows, three per story. On the west end of the north story is a second-story wood panel door with a six-light window in the top half. A steel stair and railing runs down the side of the building east from the door.

The rear west wall has a full-height brick chimney on the north of the parapet and double-hung windows with blond brick lintels on both sides of the chimney on each story. A first-floor, flush panel door is at the back northwest corner of the building.

The interior of the structure is representative of a building designed as a meeting hall for large groups. Particularly the large, second-floor auditorium reflects its use as a Masonic lodge, built in the Arts-and-Crafts era. Large, exposed wooden trusses support the roof and ornament the interior ceiling. Large, white schoolhouse glass-globed light fixtures hang from chains that are regularly spaced between the trusses. A shallow row of fixed auditorium seating runs along both sides of the room, and ornate oak chairs form altars at both the east and west ends of the plaster-walled room. In the center of the room is a permanent, floor-mounted wooden chest of quarter-sawn oak with a leather lid. At the east altar are two, approximately eight-foot high, wood columns with ornate, gold-painted capitals, and mounted atop each are world globes. Also at the east end of the room is the vestibule leading to the stairway on the north side and storage rooms on the south. The stairway up leads to a small balcony that overhangs the east end of the room. The stairway down leads to the ground floor and vestibule at the front main entrance.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

Greeley Masonic Temple

Weld County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 2

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The main level vestibule has lounge and restrooms on both sides. Both restrooms have original white, one-inch hexagonal tile floors and white porcelain plumbing fixtures. Through the vestibule opening is a large, open meeting room with newer, vinyl linoleum floor. Four columns supporting the second floor are spaced about the room. A wide, half-wall opening at the west of the room separates the kitchen area from the larger meeting space. The basement features a vault room.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

Greeley Masonic Temple

Weld County, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 3

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

The 1927 Greeley Masonic Lodge is architecturally significant as an important design of William N. Bowman. A prominent Mason in his own right, Bowman is a recognized master who worked in a variety of revival styles as well as modernist designs. The Greeley Masonic Lodge is his only known commission to have employed a modernist interpretation of Georgian Revival architecture.

The building is also significant historically for its association with a local lodge of the Masonic order. As a fraternal order, the Masons participated in numerous community betterment activities in Greeley. The period of significance begins with the building's construction in 1927 and ends in 1954.

**William N. Bowman, Architect**

William Bowman's status as a Mason may have figured heavily in his securing the design commission for the Greeley Masonic Lodge. The quality of his work was far from unknown in Greeley as he was responsible for the 1917 Classical Revival style Weld County Courthouse, just a block southeast of the lodge site across Lincoln Park.

Bowman's Greeley Masonic Lodge is a fairly simple but interesting Colonial Revival brick building. The facade shaped parapet resembles the paired chimney stacks joined by a flat parapet found on the end elevation of many Georgian style houses. The two-story corner pilasters are also typical of some Georgian houses. The orientation with the short side to the street is reminiscent of early Georgian townhouses as is the symmetrical facade. The fixed oculus window on the east-facing front harkens to both the building's and Bowman's Masonic roots. His design of the structure came at the apex of an architectural career that saw him appointed that same year to the State Board of Architectural Examiners by Colorado governor Alva Adams. He had previously served as president of the state's chapter of the American Institute of Architects from 1917 to 1919, and he had designed in whole or in part many buildings statewide, including the Denver City and County Building, the Mountain States Telephone Building, the Norman Apartments, the Montrose County Courthouse, the Park Hill Methodist Church, and the Byers and Cole Junior High Schools in Denver, to name a few of the most notable.

Bowman's career as a prolific and prominent architect began with a childhood marred by misfortune in the building industry. Born in 1868 in Carthage, New York, young William Bowman was forced to quit school at the age of 11 to support his family after his father was hurt in a debilitating sawmill accident. The oldest of five children, Bowman supported his family by working in a woolen mill. Pushed by ambition to become an architect and builder, Bowman went to a school teacher's home three nights a week where he studied mathematics and drawing. Despite his limited schooling, he soon qualified to work in an architect's office in Jackson, Michigan. Col. Elijah E. Myers, a prominent Detroit architect who designed the Colorado State Capitol, suggested that the lad become a carpenter's apprentice to learn the basics of building. With a successful apprenticeship behind him, William Bowman worked for Mortimer L. Smith & Son in Detroit and Thurtle & Fleming in Indianapolis and then became a member of the construction firm Rush, Bowman & Rush.

In 1899 William Bowman married Alice May Kniffin, a newspaperwoman from Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Bowmans traveled across the country looking for a permanent home and settled in Denver in 1910, where they built a very large, eclectic-style home with towers on the highest hill in Barnum at 325 King Street. They called their unusual home "Yamecila." In 1910 Bowman opened his architectural office in Denver. He is credited with designing the 1929 Mountain States Telephone Building, Continental Oil Building, the Colburn and Cosmopolitan hotels, the Norman Apartments, the Park Hill United Methodist Church, the Denver Theater, and Byers and Cole junior high schools as well as the Denver School Administration Building on 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

Greeley Masonic Temple

Weld County, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 4

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Bowman was also the architect for several Adams State Teachers College Buildings at Alamosa, the Colorado Building in Pueblo, and numerous schools and public buildings throughout the state.

With T. Robert Wieger, he designed the El Jebel Shrine and the Clubhouse next to Willis Case Golf Course in Denver. His 1921 Neoclassical State Office Building at the northeast corner of East Colfax and Sherman was rehabilitated in 1985.

Bowman was member of the Masonic Lodge, the Knights Templar, Colorado Consistory No. 1, and El Jebel Shrine. He died at his home in the Norman Apartments, 99 South Downing, on August 28, 1944, and was buried in Fairmount Cemetery.

**Greeley Masonic Lodge**

The Masonic order, whose roots date back to the stonemasons' guilds of the Middle Ages, advanced along with the colonization of the Americas. The fraternity had such notable members as George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, and the order expanded rapidly in the 1800s and early 1900s with the pioneering and settlement of the American West. The Masons' creed emphasizes personal study and self and social improvement by individual involvement and philanthropy. The group's efforts are well known worldwide with its establishment of orphanages, homes for the aged, and children's hospitals, to name a few. Women's and youths' branches of the organization include Eastern Star, Rainbow Girls and Demolay. Today, the organization donates almost \$1.5 million a day worldwide to hospitals, medical research, and community service. The organization boasts an international membership of approximately five million.

The Greeley Masonic Lodge was built in 1927 to continue the activities of Greeley's Occidental Lodge #20, A.F.& A.M., which was established along with Greeley for the Union Colony, as it was called in 1870. The petition for creation of a lodge was signed by forty-four men, of which thirty became charter members. F.L. Childs was the first Worshipful Master, and the group met in a number of buildings in downtown Greeley during the early years. A building at 7<sup>th</sup> Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue was built under a lease agreement and destroyed by fire in 1883. The group met in the Greeley Opera House building from 1913 through 1927. In March 1907 the group voted to organize the Greeley Masonic Temple Association for the purpose of erecting or acquiring a building for a Masonic Temple. The authorized capitalization was \$50,000 in 500 shares of \$100 each. A variety of other groups, including other Masons, Knights Templar, and Eastern Star groups acquired stock in the Association. Lots for the building were purchased for \$10,000, with final payments made in March 1918.

At a meeting on 9 April 1927, Denver architect William N. Bowman was selected to prepare plans for the building. The cost of the building was \$30,800.47. When the building was completed, its cost was already paid. The cornerstone was laid on 20 June 1927, and the first meeting in the hall was held on 14 October 1927. In 1969 the ownership of the building was restructured, with a nonprofit corporation, the Masonic Building Corporation of Greeley, chartered.

In recent years, membership in fraternal orders has waned regionally. Facing dwindling membership, Masons' lodges in smaller communities have been forced to close, and Greeley's Masonic Lodge has become the repository for records and members from Eaton and Windsor.



**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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

Greeley Masonic Temple

Weld County, Colorado

Section number 9-10 Page 5**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

City of Greeley Museums, *Greeley, Colorado: History and Architecture of its Downtown Buildings*, (City of Greeley Museums, 2003)

Frickel, Artha Pacha, *Colorado Architects Biographical Sketch*, biography of William E. Bowman.

Simmons, R.Laurie. and Thomas H., *Downtown Greeley Historic Buildings Survey*, 2001.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA****VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Lots 30-34 inclusive in Block 55 of the Greeley Original Townsite of the City of Greeley, Weld County, Colorado

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nomination includes all the land historically associated with the Greeley Masonic Temple.

**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-7:

Name of Property: Greeley Masonic temple  
 Location: Weld County, CO  
 Photographer: Gerald E. Kinney  
 Date of Photographs: February 2, 2004  
 Negatives: 1665 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue Court, Greeley, CO 80634

Photo No.	Photographic Information
1	Facade (east elevation), view to west.
2	East and south elevations, view to the northwest.
3	South elevation, view to north.
4	South and west elevations, view to the northeast.
5	West (rear) and north elevations, view to the southeast.
6	North elevation, view to the southeast.
7	North and east elevations, view to the southwest.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

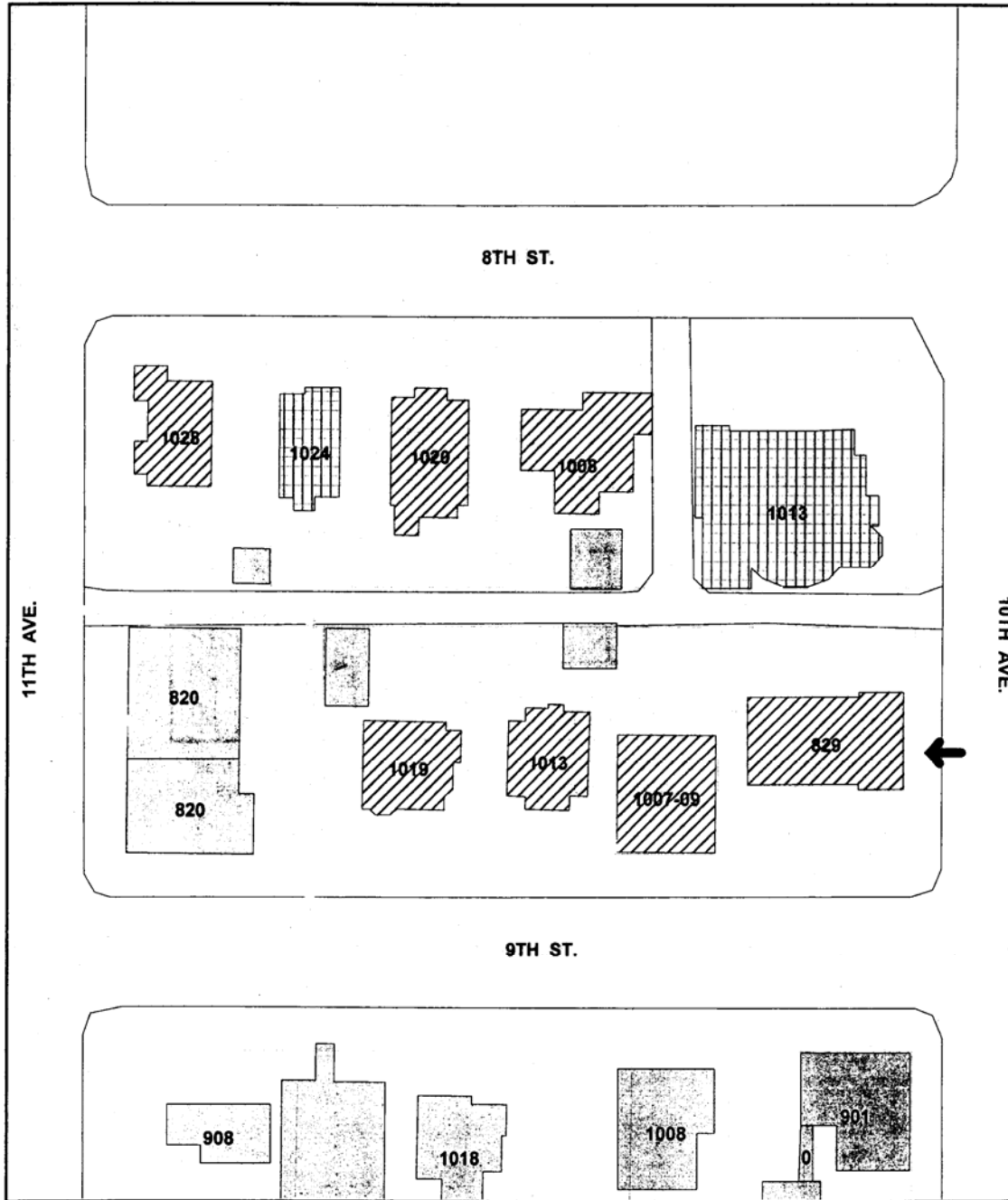
Greeley Masonic Temple

Weld County, Colorado

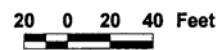
Section number \_\_\_

Page 6

## SITE SKETCH MAP



829 10TH AVE



# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Greeley Masonic Temple

Weld County, Colorado

Section number     

Page 7

**USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**  
Greeley Quadrangle, Colorado  
7.5 Minute Series (enlarged)

UTM: Zone 13 / 525939E / 4474679N (NAD27)  
PLSS: 6<sup>th</sup> PM, T5N, R65W, Sec. 5 NW¼ SW¼ SW¼  
Elevation: 4,655 feet      Site Number: 5WL.4159

