

# Strafford Rockingham Regional Council

1 Water Street, Exeter, New Hampshire

Phone: (603) 778-0885

TOWN: Rochester	COUNTY: Strafford	UTM: 7 19 /E 339825 /N 4796385
SURVEY NUMBER: 43		USGS QUAD: Berwick Quad 15' series
COMMON NAME: The Masonic Temple		FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Commercial
HISTORIC NAME: The Masonic Temple		PRESENT USE: Commercial
LOCATION: 31 Hanson Street		ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown
OWNER: Masonic Building Assoc.		CONDITION: Exc. Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair Poor Ruins
ADDRESS: 31 Hanson St., Rochester, NH		INTEGRITY: Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved (When: )
MAP & PARCEL #: 51/199 120-385		Major alterations & date: Unknown
DATE: C. 1910		
SOURCE: Date stone		
STYLE: Neo Classic		LEVEL/SIGNIFICANCE: Natl State Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

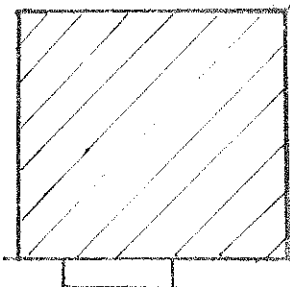
## GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System

- FOUNDATION: Stone ☐ Brick ☐ Concrete ☐ Concrete Block ☐ Sandstone ☐
- WALL STRUCTURE: Wood Frame ☐ Post & Beam ☐ Ballon Frame ☐ Other ☐  
Load Bearing Masonry ☐ Stone ☐ Brick ☐ Concrete Block ☐ Other ☐  
Metal ☐ Iron ☐ Steel ☒ Other ☐
- WALL COVERING: Clapboard ☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Board & Batten ☐ Shiplap ☐ Aluminum ☐  
Novelty ☐ Stucco ☐ Stone ☐ Brick ☒ Sheet Metal ☐ Asphalt Shingles ☐ Vinyl ☐  
Asphalt Sheeting ☐ Composite Board ☐ Other ☐
- ROOF SHEATHING: Wood Shingle ☐ Asphalt Shingle ☐ Standing Seam Tin ☐ Slate ☐  
Pressed Metal ☐ Sheet Metal ☐ Rolled Asphalt ☐ Other ☐
- ENGINEERING STRUCTURE:
- OTHER: # of Stories 3 # of Bays 5 Approx. Dimensions 70' X 70' 1/1 Sash  
Roof Style: Gable ☐ Hip ☐ Gambrel ☐ Flat ☒ Shed ☐ Mansard ☐ Jerkinhead ☐  
Monitor ☐ Sawtooth ☐ Other ☐  
Appendages: Porches ☐ Towers ☐ Dormers ☐ Bay Windows ☐ Ells ☐ Chimneys ☐  
Wings ☐ Cupolas ☐ Sheds ☐ Garage ☐ Other ☐ Fire escape (rear) ☐  
Entry Location: Center ☒ Sidehall ☐ Other ☐

MAP (Indicate North in circle):



Hanson Street



PHOTO



Description of View: Looking Southwest

Photographer: Roger Brevoort  
Negative with: S.R.R.C.  
Negative File Number: R-80-A7-20-20A

## ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Masonic Hall, a monumental Neo Classic building is distinguished by its heavily-scaled detailing. The facade features paneled sandstone pilasters dividing the upper stories into five bays. The first story, with heavy quoins at each corner serves as a base for the classical ordering of the facade. The pilasters rise from a stone beltcourse above the storefronts, terminating in Scamozzi capitals which support a full entablature with a denticular cornice, and a parapet wall at the roofline. These elements continue along the east elevation except there is a stone pilaster only in the first bay. Simpler brick pilasters set off only rear bay of this wall.

The fenestration is an important element of the symmetrical design, and on the facade consists of paired 1/1 sash in the three central bays, all topped by stone lintels. In the side bays, single windows have keystones and corner blocks, a motif continued to the first bay of the east elevation.

An inscription stone reading "Masonic Temple" is located at the midpoint of the facade's center bay.

The storefronts remain intact on either side of the building's recessed central entry which features paired doors and a transom. A pressed metal sign architrave spans the storefront level.

## RELATED STRUCTURES AND CONTEXT:

The Masonic Hall is on the corner of Hanson Street and Central Avenue. It is related in height and proportion to the Farrington Block immediately to the west.

BOUNDARY AND ACREAGE DESCRIPTION: (LOT SIZE) 60 X 93

## REFERENCES:

Rochester History Advisory Committee

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Evaluation & Historical Associations):

The Masonic Hall was dedicated July 4, 1911, on property donated by A.C. Hanson. The Masonic have historically occupied the top two stories, renting commercial space at street level. Architecturally it is one of the more elaborate local examples of the Neo-Classical style, and dominates the streetscape on Hanson street.

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open Land\_\_ Woodland\_\_ Scattered Bldgs\_\_ Moderately Built Up\_\_  
Densely Built Up\_\_ Residential\_\_ Commercial\_\_☒ Industrial\_\_ Agricultural\_\_  
Roadside Strip Development\_\_ Other\_\_

Recorded By: Roger Brevoort

Date: 11/19/80