

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

SENT TO D.C.
3-27-03

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions 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 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 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 **AF & AM Lodge 687, Orangeville**

other names/site number **Independent Order of Odd Fellows, J. R. Scruggs Lodge 372**

2. Location

street & number **203 West High Street** _____ Not for publication

city or town **Orangeville** _____ vicinity

state **Illinois** code **IL** county **Stephenson** code **177** zip code **61060**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 _____ nationally _____ statewide locally. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William L. Ghera *15 APR 03*
Signature of certifying official

3-26-03
Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

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 commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

American Indian Tribe

AF & AM Lodge 687
Name of Property

Stephenson, IL
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):	_____	_____

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
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 objects
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

AF & AM Lodge 687
Name of Property

Stephenson, IL
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**SOCIAL/RECREATION & CULTURE:
Meeting Hall, Theater & Auditorium**

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation **STONE: Limestone**

Roof **ASPHALT**

Walls **WOOD: Weatherboard**

other **WOOD**

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

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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.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Social History

Period of Significance 1876 - 1953

Significant Dates N/A

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder **Unknown**

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

(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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	282513	4704953	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

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.)

AF & AM Lodge 687
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title **John C. Buford, JD, Ph. D.**

organization

date **December 2002**

street & number **210 W. High Street**

telephone **815/789-4005**

city or town **Orangeville**

state **IL** zip code **61061**

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name **Independent Order of Odd Fellows, J. R. Scruggs Lodge 372**

street & number **203 West High Street** telephone **815/789-4626**

city or town **Orangeville** state **IL** zip code **61060**

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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AF & AM LODGE 687

DESCRIPTION

The Masonic Hall of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (AF&AM) Lodge is a two-story front-gabled wood building located on Lot #13, original Village Plat of Orangeville, on the south side of West High Street, one lot west of the intersection of High Street and East Street in Orangeville, IL. It is a wood building with clapboard siding on a fieldstone foundation. The clapboard pine exterior is painted white. Paint scraping indicates that the exterior has always been white. The structure measures 45'x30' with a two-story 1903 15'x32' wood add-on at the rear (south) of the building. The original 1876 section has a full basement. The addition has a three-quarter's height, dirt-floor basement. The north, east, and west facades have segmental arched four-over-four windows on all floors. The windows' shallow hood moldings are wood. All windows are double-hung. In the 1960s, aluminum storm windows were added. The window sashes and frames are original. There is major deterioration of some muntins, which need to be replaced. The north, east and west exterior walls are believed to be original. When the 1903 addition was built, the original south wall was removed and the building was expanded south. The 1903 addition received aluminum siding, probably at the same time as the front, circa 1976. This siding on the addition remains in place.

The footprint of the building is comprised of two rectangles. The first, being the initial structure, runs north and south, 45' long and 30' wide. The second rectangle, the 1903 add-on, is perpendicular to the initial structure, running east and west, and measuring 32' wide by 15' long. The building is two stories with full basement. There are seven rooms. The architectural style is mid-19th century front-gabled Italianate and has the following characteristics of that style: prominent window hoods, segmental-arched windows with two-over-two lights, and paired, paneled doors with a segmental-arched transom light that mimics the shape and enframing of the windows. It is located on the south side of West High Street, one lot west of the corner lot (#12) formed by High and East Streets.

North Facade (Front). The north facade has double central doors on the first floor. The glass transoms over the front entrance are original as are the interior paneled doors, which open inward. Exterior doors, which opened out, were added at a later, undetermined, date, probably in the 1930s, but definitely prior to 1953. These doors had deteriorated beyond salvaging. Fire code requires that external doors open outward for a public building, so these were recently replaced with period wood doors. The second floor has identical windows directly over the first floor windows. Metal siding, which was applied in the late 1970s, was removed in September, 2002. When the siding was applied, the hoods over the windows and the entrance were removed. All five hoods are on order for replacement. The clapboard siding was left intact underneath the aluminum siding and has been restored and repainted. When the building was sided in the 1970s, the first floor east window was covered. Removal of the siding uncovered the first

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floor east window, which has been restored. A concrete stoop, probably installed in the 1940s or 1950s, leads from the lot level to the front door. It is not known whether the sealed window in the fieldstone foundation on the east side of this facade is original.

West Facade. The first and second floor have four windows each; two additional windows are located in the fieldstone foundation. Most of the window frames are original, although some of the woodwork has been replaced. An overhang above the first floor windows runs almost the entire distance of the west facade and probably dates to 1903 when the addition was built. It shelters entrants from the elements along the west facade as they proceed toward the rear door of the building. Just north of the third window, steps lead to a platform where a steel security door has been installed, probably in the 1990s. The 1903 addition includes a door on the west facade on the first floor, and an enclosed stair to a door on the second floor. The enclosure provides no windows. The original external door to the second floor was located at the south end of the west facade and is boarded over, probably at the time of the addition in 1903. With the exception of the steel security door on the first floor, the exterior doors on the first and second floor are believed to date to the 1903 addition.

East Facade. The first and second floor have four windows each; two additional windows are located in the fieldstone foundation. With the exception of removal of the external chimney, the east facade is believed to have experienced no other alterations. The 1903 aluminum-sided addition includes a window on the second floor.

South Facade. The south facade was sided in the 1970s. It has two different windows on the first floor, a small, one-over-one window on the west side that is probably original to the addition, and a much newer window on the east. The second floor has a one-over-window on the west side, probably original to the addition, and a steel door, probably added in the 1960s, on the east. A fan vent is above the steel door, and exterior wooden steps lead to the second floor door.

Interior.

The original building was kerosene lighted. Gas fixtures were installed in the late 1800s or early 1900s as well as coal-fired central heat. Originally, the building was heated with small stoves on each floor. In the 1910s or 1920s, the building was converted to electric lighting and later oil heat. Later yet, the oil heat system was converted to gas. All floors are soft wood, although the kitchen, bathrooms, and second floor anterooms are tiled, and the second floor main lodge area is carpeted.

The 1903 addition extended the stage, added a kitchen from which public meals could be served, and added a bathroom, bringing indoor plumbing to the building. The second floor was built to be open only

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for Lodge members and fraternal rites. The 1903 addition added an anteroom and changing room to the second floor along with another bathroom. All woodwork and plaster walls seem to be original. The metal ceiling on the first floor, installed in 1904, remains in place. The ceilings in the kitchen/stage area and the entire second floor have had drop panel ceilings installed. The two bathrooms and kitchen were updated, probably in the 1960s, as indicated by the age of the fixtures. According to Masonic minutes and newspaper articles from the period, the basement originally was a major banquet room.

First Floor. The paneled, segmental-arched, double-door front entrance on the north wall is capped with a transom window with two lights. The doors and hardware are original and have been well maintained. There is a window on each side of the double doors. The floor is wood. The original woodwork is still intact and located around the doors, windows, and stage. There is chair rail and wainscoting that run the length of the north, east and west walls. There are windows on the east and west walls of the auditorium. On the south end of the original building, four steps lead to an elevated stage with doors on each side. The original building continued about twelve feet past the stage entrance. This is obvious from the window placement of the fourth windows at the south end of the east and west walls of the original building as well as the extension lines from stage floor of the addition. Dividing the stage from the kitchen is a seven-foot wall with pass through. There is a foot gap between this wall and the ceiling. There are openings to the kitchen at the east and west ends of the wall. The south wall of the kitchen has a one-over-one window above the kitchen sink and a one-over-one segmented window in the west corner of the south wall. There is a door that leads to the stairs to the basement at the south corner of the west wall of the addition. On the east wall of the addition, and beginning with the south corner, there is a small closet, a bathroom, and another small closet.

Second Floor. The second floor is comprised of four rooms: the ceremonial room, two anterooms, and a half bathroom.

Ceremonial Room. The Ceremonial Room comprises the north two-thirds of the second floor. It is located entirely within the original 1876 building. The plaster cove ceiling is intact but was covered in the 1960s, when a suspended drop ceiling was installed. The floor is wood with wall-to-wall carpeting, again probably installed in the 1960s. The floor is raised about six inches on the east, west, and north sides to provide seating for ceremonial events. The north, east and west walls have wainscoting and chair rail. Walls are painted plaster. The east and west walls each have four windows. The north (front) wall has two windows. A window air conditioning unit was installed through the upper wall in the south corner of the east wall, probably in the 1960s.

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East Anteroom. The floors of the anterooms and bathroom are tiled. All ceilings are lath and plaster. A ½ bathroom is located in the southeast corner of the anteroom. Built-in closets line the remainder of the east wall. The north wall has a door on the east side which leads to the ceremonial room. The south wall has a steel door that leads to the wood exterior fire escape. There is a fan vent above the door. The south two-thirds of the west wall is lined with built-in closets. The north one-third is comprised of a double wood door that leads to the west anteroom.

West Anteroom. The south two-thirds of the east wall of the anteroom is lined with built-in closets. The north one-third is comprised of a double wood door that leads to the east anteroom. The window on the south wall, which is part of the 1903 addition, may have been from the original wall that was removed when the addition was built. The north wall has a door on the west side that leads to the ceremonial room. The west wall contains a door in the south corner, which leads to the main enclosed stairway. On the north side of the west wall is a built-in closet, which replaced the original second floor door.

Basement. The original basement has roughly a nine-foot ceiling. The floor seems to be a hardened lime, which has deteriorated over the 125-year period to a dirt floor. The north wall (front) once had double doors. That entrance has been blocked in with masonry blocks, probably in the 1950s. The original south basement wall was partially knocked down to allow ingress and egress from the 3/4 basement constructed for the foundation of the 1903 addition. A concrete block stoop of two steps was added for the step-up/down. The gas furnace sits roughly in the middle of the original basement floor. The west and east walls each have two window wells. The 1903 addition has a deteriorated stairwell that will be repaired in the near future. This is the only means of entering the basement. Sumps have been dug in both the original and addition basement.

In 1903, the original south (rear) wall was removed and the building was expanded south with a 32' x 15' addition. The original external stairway which served a door on the second floor on the south end of the west facade of the building was removed and the second floor doorway was boarded over. An exterior stairway was added to the center of the south wall of the new addition. An interior stairway from the first floor of the addition was built into the basement and the south basement foundation wall was breached to allow ingress and egress from the 3/4 basement that served as the base for the addition. The basement of the addition was never finished and remains with a dirt floor.

Electricity and electric lights were added, probably in the 1920s, upgraded in the 1940s or 1950s, and upgraded once again in 2001. The double entrance to the basement at the north (front) of the building was blocked in, the exterior stairwell was filled, and a concrete stoop was placed on the fill, which leads to the first floor entrance. (It is presumed this occurred in the 1950s because there is a fuel oil tank dating from around that time in the basement that could only have gotten there through the basement

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front double doors.) A window was cut in the field stone foundation on the west side of the north facade. This window aperture, now sealed over, is believed not to be original.

The first floor of the 1903 addition brought indoor plumbing into the building, and houses a bathroom, a kitchen, and a pass-through to the original stage area of the Hall. The second floor of the addition is comprised of a small bathroom in the southeast corner and two anterooms to the ceremonial room. There is strong evidence that in the same year, the individual stoves were removed throughout the building and a coal-fired furnace was placed in the basement. The coal-fired furnace later was replaced with an oil burner, and later yet replaced with natural gas. The first floor of the original Masonic Hall was modified with the addition of chases to carry heat from the new coal-fired central furnace. The 1903 chases remain in place today. About this same time, gas lights were added to the auditorium on the first floor. The removal of the exterior south wall allowed for a three-foot extension to the depth of the stage. In 1904, a steel stamped (tin) ceiling was added to the auditorium. At some time, a second wood floor was installed over the original floor. By the cut of the wood, it is possible that this modification was made in 1903 when the coal furnace, chases, and cold air returns were installed. The double floor remains in place.

The original second floor was modified with the addition of hot air vents and cold air returns. The second floor south wall that was removed for the addition was rebuilt as an interior wall with two doors, one leading from each anteroom to the ceremonial room.

In the 1970s, aluminum siding was added to the exterior north (front) facade. Window and door hoods were removed to side the building. The siding was removed in September, 2002.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The A.F. & A.M. Lodge 687 Masonic Hall meets Criterion A for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance for social history and entertainment/recreation in its role as a social building where fraternal orders met and community meetings and social gatherings were held. The building has been in continuous use since 1876 for these same purposes. It has served the social and cultural organizations of the Orangeville area for over 125 years. Its period of significance is from 1876, when the building was constructed, to 1953, the fifty year cut-off for the National Register of Historic Places.

History of Orangeville. Orangeville, Illinois, is located in northern Stephenson County, roughly two miles from the Wisconsin border, 11 miles south of Monroe, Wisconsin, 12 miles north of Freeport, Illinois, 35 miles west of Rockford, Illinois, and 60 miles east of Dubuque, Iowa. The village was founded in 1851 and incorporated in 1867. The town founder, John Bower, platted the village and owned the original lot #13 where the hall is constructed. The lot where the Masonic Hall is located is across the alley east of Bower's house, Union House, currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In the 1830s and early 1840s, farmers from New York and Pennsylvania moved onto the fertile and cheap lands of the Central States. Dr. Thomas Van Valsah led a wagon train of Pennsylvanian settlers to Stephenson County in 1837. These people of German descent were known as Pennsylvania Deutsche (German) or "Pennsylvania Dutch." Thirteen of the first fourteen settlers to the area that would become Orangeville were Pennsylvania Deutsche. The fourteenth was German.

Simon Davis is given credit as being one of the first to settle in Oneco Township about 1833. On January 1, 1838, John H. Curtis purchased eighty acres from the United States government at the Dixon Land Office, land that was destined to become Orangeville. Curtis built a primitive dam on the Richland Creek and constructed a gristmill and sawmill nearby on the west side of the creek. He also built a log cabin. In 1843 Curtis died and the mills lay idle until John Bower, who had visited the area in 1845, arrived with his family in 1846 and purchased the 80 acres and mills.

Daniel B. Bobb grew up in Oneco Township and provided some insight into the settlement of Orangeville in his autobiography (Quoted from the 1970 History of Stephenson County):

In the fall of 1845 David Bobb, John Bower, Jacob Walter, Daniel Riem, and Colonel John Gift came with wagons from Pennsylvania to Stephenson

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County. Daniel's father and Uncle Jacob finally found an empty basswood cabin "about sixteen by twenty-two feet and six feet high—one room—where Orangeville now stands, into which both families moved—sixteen persons all." [This may have been the cabin built by John Curtis, who had died in 1843.]

Initially, Orangeville was in direct competition with the village of Oneco as growing center of commerce, and by 1854, the government determined that the population between the two villages was enough to establish a post office. According to a letter written by a resident of the time, the determination was made by announcing that, on an appointed day, people lined up on one side of the road or the other, depending on which village they supported. Orangeville won by the thinnest of margins.

The Civil War had some impact on the development and growth of Orangeville, but the effects were not long lasting. As stated in the 1880 History of Stephenson County by M.H. Tilden:

In 1861, the breaking-out of the war caused a large increase in the volume of business done by the merchants, which was materially diminished for some years thereafter, owing to the unsettled condition of affairs throughout the county, the departure of volunteers, and other causes producing similar effects elsewhere. The last half of the decade beginning with 1860, however, witnessed an improved state of public feeling, producing a better market for commodities and correspondingly prosperous times. Orangeville of course participated in these benefits, and so pronounced was the success which attended her development and building-up, that in 1867 the village was incorporated as a town, with such prerogatives and privileges appertaining thereto as by law are conferred, including town officers.

Orangeville continued to prosper. By 1887, Orangeville was well on its way to becoming the second city of Stephenson County. The downtown was essentially complete by the 1870s with all commercial lots having been sold and improved. By 1877, the Village had attained a population of over 300. In 1883, the first village newspaper, The Orangeville Alert, began publication. But the real commercial building boom began in 1888, with the coming of the Illinois Central Railroad. When the ICRR decided to link Freeport, Illinois, and Madison, Wisconsin, in 1887, the only incorporated village directly on the line between Freeport and Monroe, Wisconsin, was Orangeville.

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The coming of the railroad set off an unprecedented boom in the building industry. Fourteen new brick buildings were erected as a direct outcome of this venture. They included the brick buildings in the downtown area minus the Wagner Building (1906) and the R. W. Moore Building (1899). Other businesses along the two streets between 1888 and 1914 included a drug store, barber shop, banks, restaurants, watch and clock repair shop and jewelry store, grocery stores, two meat markets and butcher shops, ice cream parlor, hardware and pump repair shop, cigar factory, implement shop, piano store, Lillian Nolf Mahaney's Hat Shop, tin shop, furniture store, furniture and casket factory, funeral parlor, harness shop, shoe repair shop and store, J. Musser Dry Goods and General Store, Wagner General Store and hardware, Confer Patent Medicine Company, tailor, two livery stables and feed sales, photography studio, millinery, and a new hotel, Central House, erected in 1890.

During 1926, just prior to the Great Depression, Illinois State Highway 74 (later Illinois State Route 26) replaced Church Alley on the east of the village, bypassing the heart of the downtown. The business district no longer was served by the traffic flow of a major thoroughfare. Despite this major turn of misfortune, many of the downtown businesses continued to survive, at least for a time. In 1926, two of the three banks in Orangeville, the two state banks, merged and built a new building, opening as the Peoples State Bank. But by 1928, the signs of a slow decline for the once-thriving community of Orangeville were becoming clear. With a shriveling downtown business presence and a bypass mentality, the Village experienced little expansion, negative growth, and moved toward bedroom community status. The bypass around the Village and the 1932 Depression continued to affect the town negatively. In 1932, the Peoples State Bank, the last of the banks, closed in Orangeville. The Village saw some small growth again during the years following World War II and the Korean Conflict, when servicemen starting families move to the Village to take advantage of the low housing prices within commuting distance of Freeport and other regional industries.

Social/Fraternal Organizations. Throughout the history of Orangeville, social and fraternal lodges have played a major role in the community. There have been many fraternal organizations formed in the village. From their early days (1868 for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and 1872 for the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons Lodge 687), the over-riding purpose of the lodges has been fellowship and camaraderie. During each lodge's heyday, the lodge celebrated its events with community occasions and fundraising. The following organizations are still active in the community:

- **Orangeville Lodge, NO. 687, A. F. & A.M.** The Masons originally were comprised of stonemasons, who organized in 17th and 18th century England, to teach its members their trade as well as impart moral guidance. As the demand for builders decreased, Masons began to accept those who were not stonemasons as members of their lodges. Since then, numerous lodges have organized in England as well as in the United States. In Illinois today there are almost 600 lodges. The major

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mission of the Masons is to celebrate a belief in God and to lead a better life. This mission has not changed since its founding. In addition to serving as a fraternal organization, the Masons have been active in promoting charitable causes. In Illinois, Masons support a Masonic Home for Masons and their widows, a Children's Home, Shriner's Hospitals, and a number of programs that benefit the education and well being of Illinois youth.

The Orangeville A.F. & A.M. Lodge was organized in the early 1870s and their sister organization, the Eastern Star, Willow Chapter #434 was formed in 1899. From the 1970 History of Stephenson County:

(Masons)—as chartered October 1, 1872, to the following-named members, though the lodge had been working under a dispensation for some time prior to that date: B. H. Bradshaw, David Jones, James Musser, Benjamin Musser, Charles Musser, I.G. Ermhold, J. K. Bloom, H.W. Bolender, P. Scheckler, William Potts and D. A. Schock. The order progressed and prospered in wealth and influence, and in 1876, erected a handsome hall on High Street, a decided ornament to the village, and a source of pride to the fraternity and citizens of Orangeville.... The present membership includes thirty-one of the craft, and the lodge property is valued at \$2,500. Meetings are convened on the first and third Thursdays of each month.

The Masons held their meetings in the upper stories of the hall while the first floor was used for social functions, church services, and entertainment purposes. Lodge No. 687 is still active in Orangeville today.

- **J.R. Scroggs Lodge, No. 372, Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F).** The IOOF is an international fraternal organization established in 1819. The organization grew rapidly in the United States, from the 1830s through the 1930s. The National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Ursa Town Hall, January 14, 2002 provides this summary of the organization:

(The IOOF)...advocates improving and elevating the character of man. This is their "objective." The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (symbol) features three links of a chain. Each link encloses a letter: F for Friendship, L for Love, and T for Truth. This is their motto....The Odd Fellows Fraternity offered its members many benefits. Members and their dependents would never become a public charge. Although the benefits of membership were not lavish, they did eliminate the possibility of being cold, hungry and

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homeless. The monetary assistance amounted to \$2 or \$3 per week. The lodge also paid funeral benefits that ranged from \$50 to \$500. [While these amounts may seem small today, they were substantial amounts at the time of the founding of the organization in the early 1800s.]... A fraternal organization that would offer these benefits was significant to the community.

The IOOF took care of their members by assisting widows and providing education to orphans. The IOOF also made it a point to visit those who were sick in the community regardless of whether they were members of the organization.

The Orangeville IOOF was formed in the late 1860s. From the 1970 History of Stephenson County:

J.R. Scroggs Lodge, No. 372, Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F). was organized October 18, 1868, under a charter issued to A. A. Krape, Thomas Spriggs, Henry Dinges, J. K. Bloom, J. J. Moore and William Sandoe. Since the date of its organization the lodge has prospered deservedly, and now enjoys a membership of sixty-five of the order, with property valued at \$2,000. Meetings are held weekly, on Saturday evening, in Masonic Hall.

In 1896, the IOOF assisted in installing a sister organization, the Rebekah Lodge. On March 10, 1896, the Rebekah Lodge was installed with fifty-six charter members. This provided a lodge for the wives and mothers of the Odd Fellows. An Odd Fellow in good standing in this lodge also could become a member of the Rebekahs. Membership rules later changed to allow any woman, regardless of whether she has a son, husband or father in the Odd Fellows Lodge, to become a member.

Because government at all levels has taken over most of these functions, the IOOF, as an organization, has fallen on hard times. Today, there are only two lodges in Northwestern Illinois, and the Orangeville Lodge, has fewer than 50 members. Although meetings are still scheduled twice monthly, no meeting with full rites has been held in over two years.

There were other, lesser known, organizations that were active in Orangeville during the mid to late 1800s and early 1900s. From the 1970 History of Stephenson County:

Orangeville Lodge, No. 133, I.O.G.T. [International Organization of Good Templars]—Was first organized in 1867, and, after a few years'

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combat with the world of intemperance, yielded up the ghost. In the fall of 1877, J. Q. Detwiler, an ardent temperance reformer, labored throughout the county and effected a reorganization of the society, with total of twenty-four members....Within three years, the lodge has increased its working force to forty members, and is otherwise prosperous. Meetings are held semi-monthly, on Friday evenings, in Masonic Hall....In addition to societies which convene in Masonic Hall, its occupation is granted, on the first and third Saturday afternoons, to Excelsior Grange, No. 109, Patrons of Husbandry, which was chartered January 21, 1873, and now has sixty members.

The I.O.G.T. was one of several lodges that were once active in Orangeville but no longer exist. Generally the reasons for their disappearance was that their mission did not survive. The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) lodge, for instance, served no purpose once the Civil War veterans died. Modern Woodmen of America went the same way, as did temperance lodges. Yet all of these organizations shared a common thread: they all met in the A.F. & A.M. Lodge Masonic Hall.

The Ancient Free and Accepted Masons Lodge. The Masonic Hall of the A.F. & A.M. Lodge 687 was originally constructed to serve as the village's Masonic Lodge, but from the date it was opened, it has been used by all fraternal orders in the town, to include Masons, IOOF, Rebekahs, Eastern Star, Modern Woodmen, Grand Army of the Republic, Knights of the Globe, and Knights of Pythias. The last four organizations have been inactive in Orangeville for at least 60 years, but the two that are still active continue to meet and hold festivities in the building.

The A.F. & A.M. Lodge 687 built the hall in 1876, just four years after it was organized. A description of the hall was included in the 1970 History of Stephenson County:

The hall is of frame, 26x51, two stories high, handsomely finished, and peculiarly adapted to the uses for which it is appropriated. The basement contains a supper-room, equipped with furniture, cooking and table utensils, and is used upon festive occasions.... The first floor is occupied for hall purposes, where entertainments, lectures, social and church gatherings are held. It contains a stage, is thoroughly lighted, heated and ventilated, with a capacity for seating an audience of 300. The upper story is devoted to the lodge room of the organization, and is superior, in point of finish, to many cities more pretentious. The cost of the building was \$2,500.

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The Masons found themselves with dwindling membership, while the membership of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was on the rise. The Odd Fellows had met in Masonic Hall from the date the hall opened in 1876. In 1893 the Masons sold the Masonic Hall to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, J.R. Scroggs Lodge 372, for \$1800, although they continued to rent from the IOOF Lodge and meet as they had since the building of the Masonic Hall.

When the IOOF Lodge bought the hall, they celebrated their purchase and their twenty-fifth anniversary on July 11, 1893, with a parade and special dedication which was followed by a dance held in Musser Hall, located on the second floor of the Musser Building. In order to support the cost of heat and maintenance, the Odd Fellows rented the first floor of the IOOF Hall to Ira Schadel for \$6.00 a month. Ira established a barbershop in the south section of the main floor that was run by Pete Russell, while Ira ran an ice cream parlor and confectionery store. In 1897, the IOOF installed hitching posts in front of their hall, and in 1903, built the south addition to add a kitchen. Around 1911, indoor plumbing, electricity, and central heat were added.

1909 marked the tenth year of the formation of the Mason's sister organization, the Eastern Star. That year, they moved their meetings to the hall. They originally met above the meat market on High Street (current location of Richland Creek Foods).

Entertainment and Recreation. The Masonic Hall has been a prominent place in the entertainment and recreational history of the Village of Orangeville. Lodges sponsored many social activities in the community. From the 1970 History of Stephenson County:

SOCIAL EVENTS. The lodges used to hold many special days with parades. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Village held an annual summer festival. In 1915, the village held its first annual "Pennsylvania Dutch Day" serving free, sweet biscuits, corned beef and cabbage. There were four thousand visitors the first year. In the 1920s, the town re-instituted the summer festivals, and also held annually a large community chicken and noodle supper. The Depression ended these events.

The community also used the space in the Masonic Hall for entertainment purposes. From 1876 until 1888, the first floor of Masonic Hall served as the community public stage and auditorium, open to any and all upon request. In 1888 Orangeville's first opera house and ballroom, Musser Hall, opened on the second floor of the James Musser Building. This replaced the Lodge as the main public forum. Many traveling medicine shows played in the opera house, and the annual fall Mum Show was hosted here along with many talent shows and band fairs.

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In 1915, Elmer Korth built a two-story opera house on the site of the current fire station, and this became the new public forum, lasting through the late 1940s. In the late 1940s, the People's Community Bank, which closed during the Depression and was bought by the American Legion Post 720, hosted most social events until a new bank opened in that building in 1956. The Masonic Hall once again hosted community events, to include chili suppers and feather parties until the American Legion built a new building in 1958, which has become the Village Hall in addition to the American Legion. In 2001, IOOF and Masonic members, along with other community volunteers, restored the interior of the Masonic Hall, and it again has become the community stage and auditorium, as well as dinner theater. With the exception of the Korth Opera House, all of these buildings still stand in Orangeville.

The hall has served as the village's meeting space for fraternal organizations as well as a gathering place for other community events since it was built. The following is a chronological history of the Masonic Hall, Orangeville, Illinois:

- 1876--Built and opened. Masons and Odd Fellows, along with other fraternal orders and social groups, meet on the second floor. First floor open for public events. Basement used as banquet room for Masons.
- 1888--James Musser building and Opera House built. Masonic Hall becomes a secondary community meeting place.
- 1893--Masonic Hall sold to IOOF. Masons and Odd Fellows continue to meet on the second floor.
- 1903--Major addition. First floor rented out for barbershop and ice cream parlor.
- 1903--Addition of indoor plumbing.
- 1920s--Addition of electricity.
- 1911-2000--Continued use by Masons and IOOF of second floor. Sporadic use of first floor for community events.
- 2001-Present--Continued use by Masons and IOOF of second floor. First floor restored and used for Founders Day dinner, Orangeville Lyceum Series, dinner theater, local and regional meetings, some school class reunions.
- 2002--Exterior front restoration.

Recent History and Present.

In 2002, the Masons, IOOF, and A Community Together (ACT), a nonprofit community development organization, agreed to cost-share \$10,000 for the rehabilitation of the exterior front of the building. Since September 2002, the aluminum siding has been removed from the exterior front, the wood siding on the front of the building has been repaired, scraped, and painted, the first floor east window has been restored to its original configuration, and new replacement exterior wood doors have been installed. The Orangeville High School industrial arts class, using the original IOOF sign (circa 1893) as a template,

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built a new sign which graces the front of the building. As this is being written, the Orangeville High School industrial arts class is making new hoods for the front windows and doorway, using historic photos and the side window hoods as a model.

The restoration and re-use of the Hall has led to new external interest in Orangeville and brought new revenue. The dinner theater draws patrons from Chicago, Madison, Dubuque, and the Quad cities. The Mighty Richland Players Dinner Theater, now in its second year, grosses \$40,000 annually and nets \$4,000 for village development projects for ACT. The Orangeville Lyceum Series, held six times annually in the Hall, also draws people from the region, hosting nationally-known lecturers funded by the National Endowment of the Arts and the Illinois Humanities Council through the Road Scholar program. ACT also now meets at the Masonic Hall monthly to plan and coordinate its many activities. While the Masons and the IOOF have continuously used the Masonic Hall since it was constructed, the hall today meets its initial intended purpose after a hiatus from regular community events of over 115 years. Not since Musser Hall was opened in 1888 has the Masonic Hall been used regularly for public meetings, lecture series, plays, and fundraising dinners.

The Masonic Hall is a key player in this town revival, maintaining its integrity for 125 years, connecting the past with the present, and serving as the segue to Orangeville's future. Presently, and in addition to its continued use as a fraternal meeting hall, the building serves as a community center; and with its new paint, restoration, and uses, leads Orangeville into a new era of prosperity. The Masonic Hall again has become the community show place and focal point—a historic treasure, a visual delight, a cash generator, a visitor attraction, a community asset, a source of tremendous pride, and a model of what can be done in a small town with civic-minded volunteers. As the first Italianate style building, which became the archetype for historical downtown construction, as the meeting hall for the Masons and Odd Fellows for 125 years, as a building that has changed little since major renovations of the 1910s, it has maintained sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register.

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NPS Form 10-900-a
OMB No. 1024-0018
(8-86)

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Verbal Boundary Description

The property commonly known as 203 West High Street, Orangeville, Illinois 61060, situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, and legally described as follows:

The east 33 feet of the north 72 feet of Lot 13, Block 2, of the original plat of Orangeville. Situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois.

Permit Index Number
16-03-36-180-004

Boundary Justification

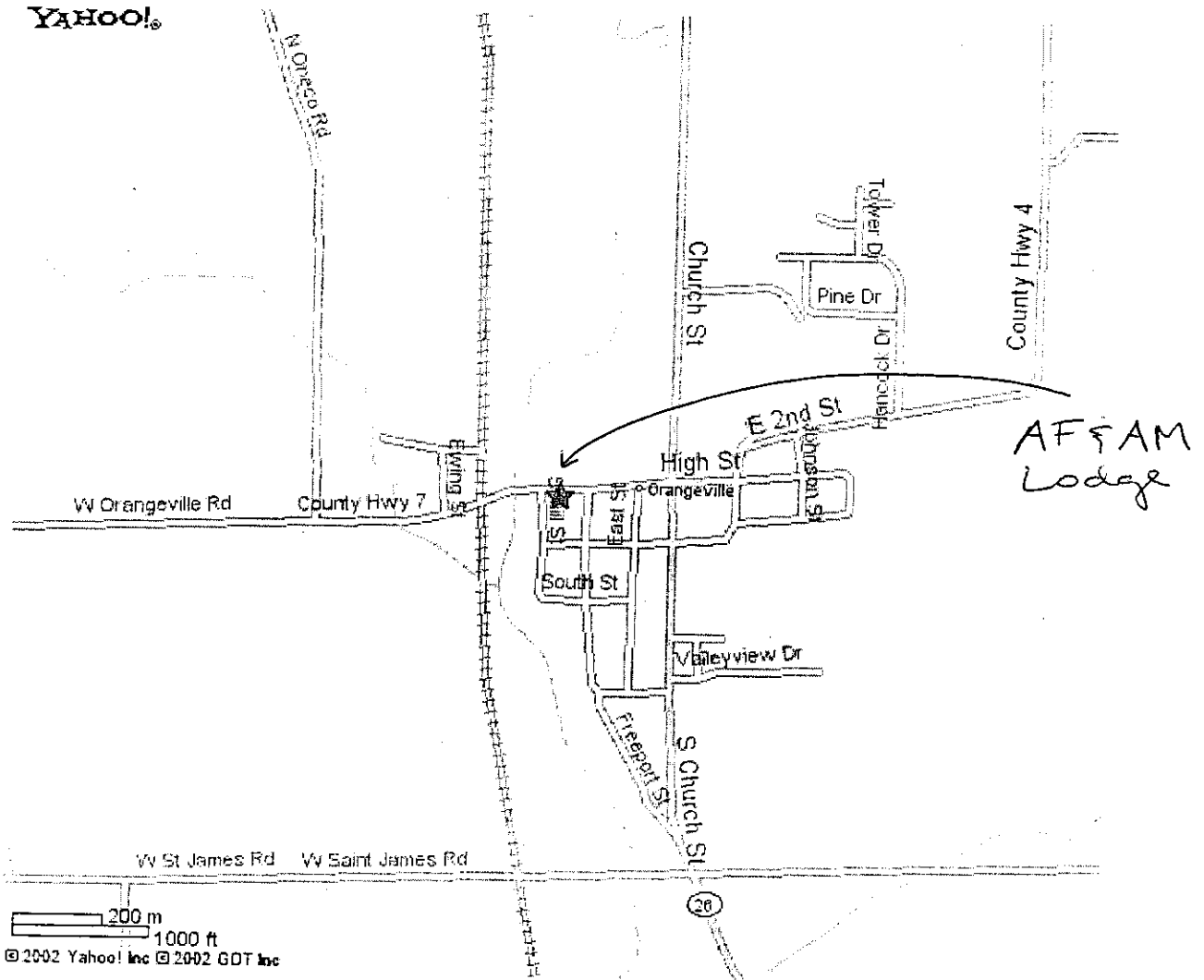
The boundary includes the building and lot historically associated with AF & AM 687 Lodge Hall.



Yahoo! Maps

[Back to Map](#)

★ 203 W High St, Orangeville, IL 61060-9249

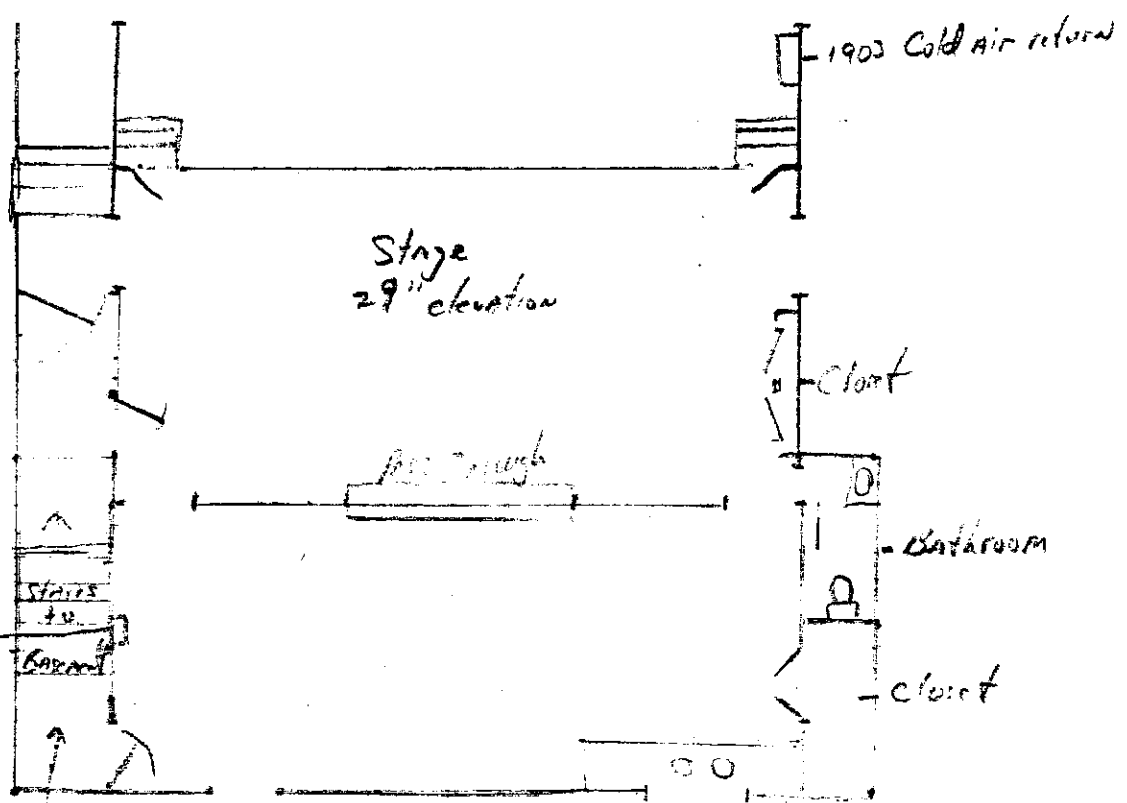
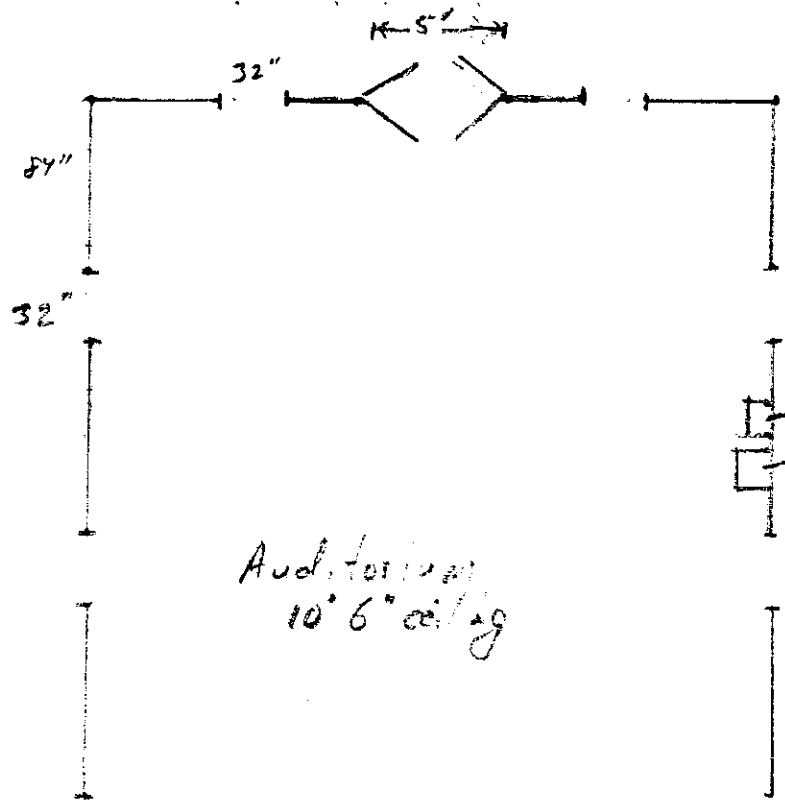


When using any driving directions or map, it's a good idea to do a reality check and make sure the road still exists, watch out for construction, and follow all traffic safety precautions. This is only to be used as an aid in planning.

1 block = 2'

Approx:
Original Rdy 50x26'
Rd. air 14x33'

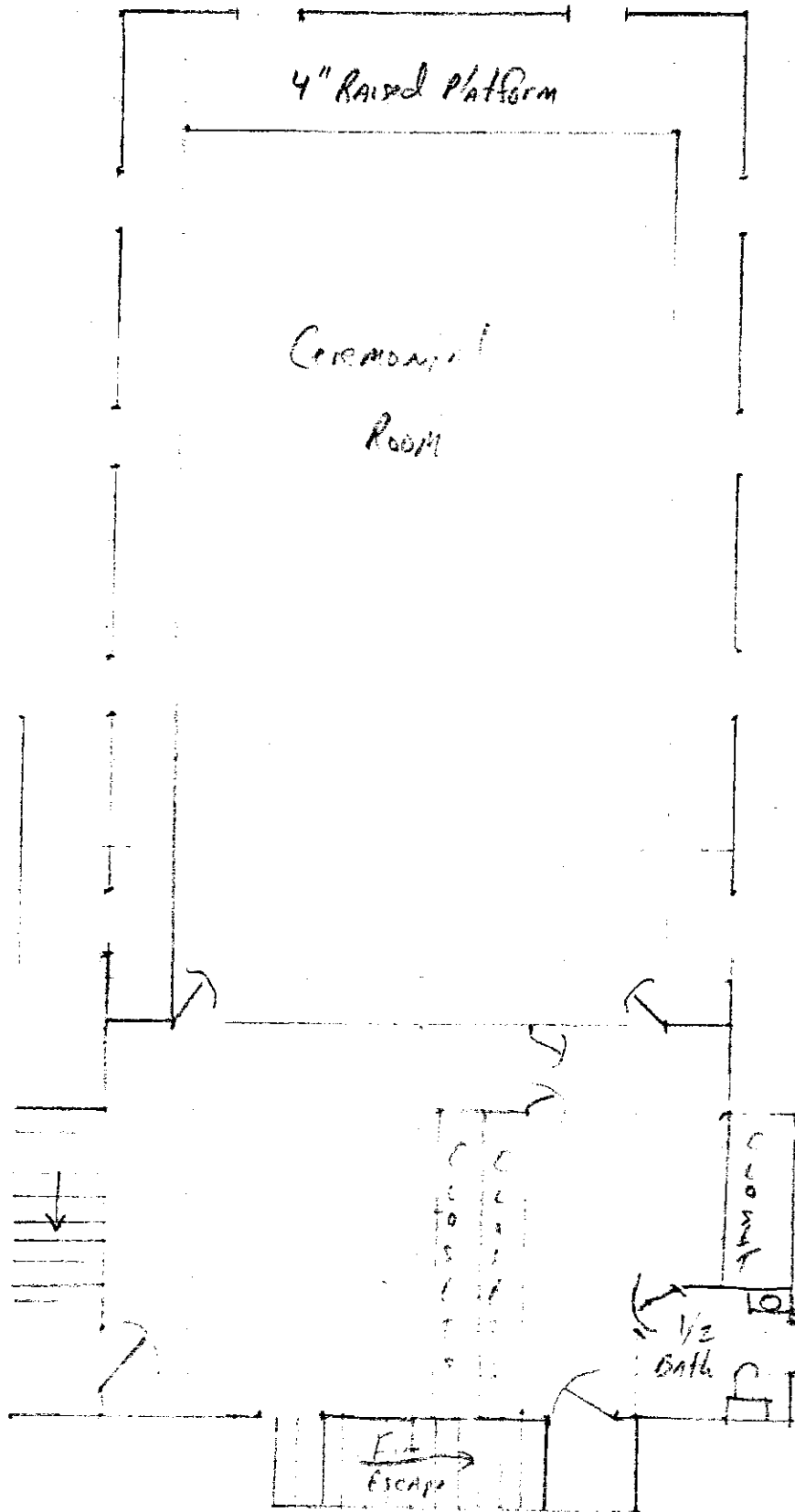
N ↑



first Floor
Masonic Lodge
203 W. High St.
Ossageville, Mo.

1 block 2'

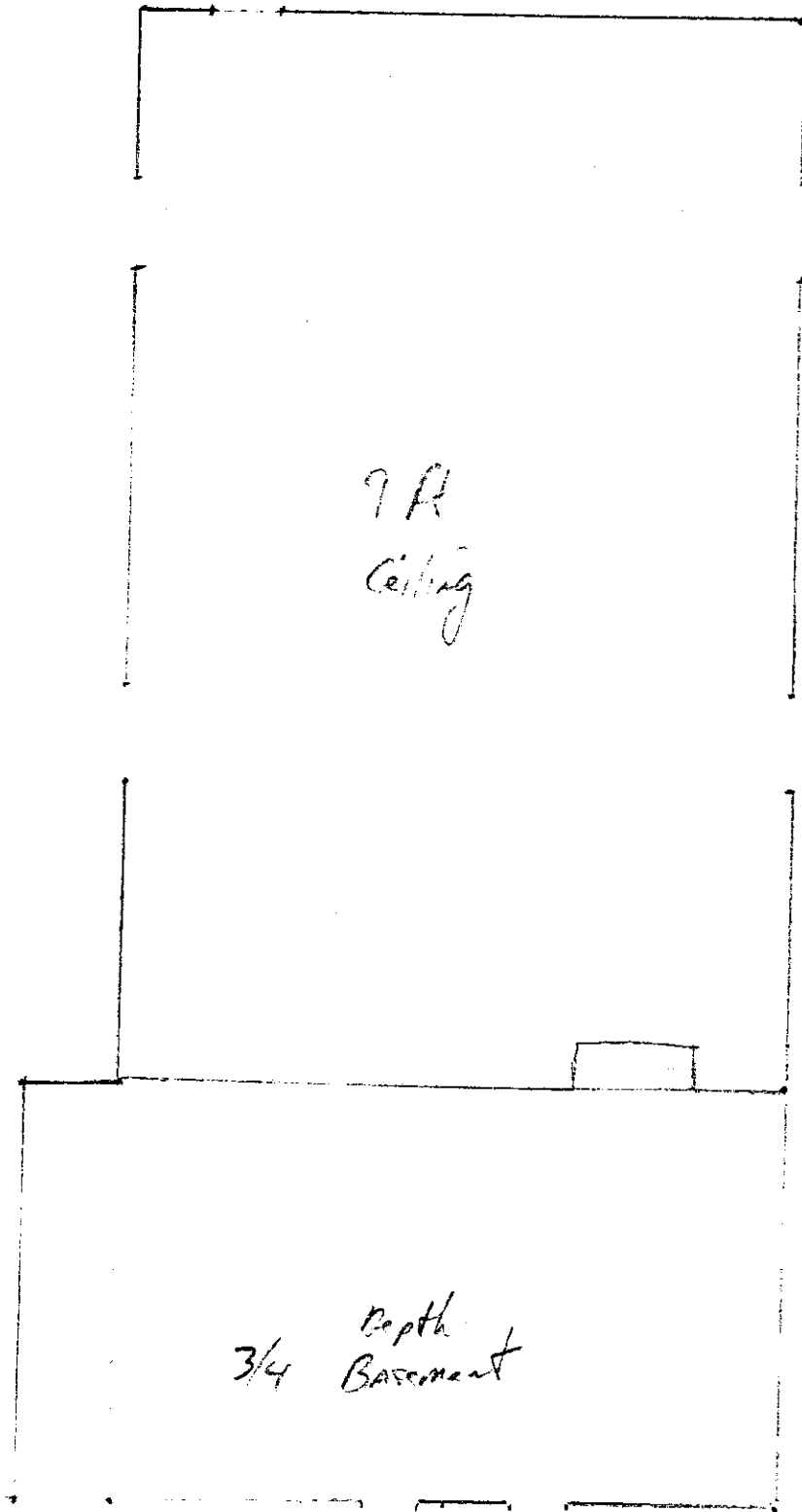
N ↑



Second Floor
Masonic Lodge
203 W. High Street
Orangeville, IL

1 1/2" = 2'

N



Basement
Masonic Lodge
203 High Street
Orangeville, IL

Our physical location address is:

National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW,
Washington D.C. 20005

Please have any Fed Ex, UPS packages sent to the above address. Please continue to use alternate carriers, as all mail delivered to us via United States Postal Service is irradiated and subsequently damaged.

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 5/05/03 THROUGH 5/09/03

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL, Action, Date, Multiple Name

CALIFORNIA, KERN COUNTY,
Burro Schmidt's Tunnel,
Address Restricted,
Ridgecrest vicinity, 03000113,
LISTED, 3/20/03

ILLINOIS, DU PAGE COUNTY,
Butler School,
1200 31st. St. (Oak Brook Rd.),
Oak Brook, 03000355,
LISTED, 5/09/03

ILLINOIS, OGLE COUNTY,
Oregon Public Library,
300 Jefferson St.,
Oregon, 03000352,
LISTED, 5/09/03
(Illinois Carnegie Libraries MPS)

ILLINOIS, STEPHENSON COUNTY,
AF and AM Lodge 687, Orangeville,
203 W. High St.,
Orangeville, 03000354,
LISTED, 5/09/03

IOWA, SAC COUNTY,
Chicago and North Western Passenger Depot,
3727 Perkins Ave.,
Wall Lake, 03000358,
LISTED, 5/09/03

IOWA, STORY COUNTY,
Nevada Downtown Historic District,
Approx. 6th St. from I Ave. to M Ave.,
Nevada, 03000356,
LISTED, 5/09/03
(Nevada Central Business District MPS)

IOWA, WEBSTER COUNTY,
Oleson Park Music Pavilion,
1400 Oleson Park Ave.,
Fort Dodge, 03000357,
LISTED, 5/09/03

IOWA, WOODBURY COUNTY,
Sanford, Arthur and Stella, House,
1925 Summit,