

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 Masonic Temple - Auburn

other names/site number King Solomon Lodge No. 60

2. Location

street & number 10 Auburn Way S.

☐

not for publication

city or town Auburn

☐

vicinity

state Washington

code WA

county King

code 033

zip code 98002

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria

x A B x C D

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

WASHINGTON 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.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	buildings
	district
	site
	structure
	object
<u>1</u>	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

None

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 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Italian Renaissance

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Terra Cotta

roof: Synthetic

other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

The Auburn Masonic Temple, home of King Solomon Lodge No. 60, is a two-story building is situated at the eastern edge of the original business district of downtown Auburn, Washington. Clad with white glazed terra cotta on its street facades, it was completed in 1924 in a restrained Italian Renaissance Revival style by the notable Tacoma architectural firm of Health, Gove and Bell. Since completion, the temple building has housed a series of commercial uses at the ground floor level, and seen continuous use of the Masonic lodge hall on the second floor level. This distinctive building retains its formal and urbane architectural character after more than 80 years of steady occupancy.

Site

The Masonic Temple is located at a busy downtown Auburn intersection, on the southeast corner of East Main Street (formerly First St.) and Auburn Way S. (formerly C St. SE). The building is oriented north toward East Main Street, with a distinctive entrance on Auburn Way that provides access to lodge headquarters upstairs. The adjacent commercial blocks of downtown Auburn are built up in all directions. The fabric of the district is pedestrian-friendly in scale and character - most buildings do not exceed two stories in height. A concentration of late 19th and early 20th century buildings extend west along Main Street from Auburn Way S. into the heart of the historic business district.

Exterior

The Auburn Masonic Temple is a two-story brick masonry building with a full concrete basement. A flat roof rises into a low Mansard configuration at the south end of the building above the interior lodge meeting room. Unadorned brick walls are oriented toward a parking lot to the east and an alleyway and adjacent commercial building to the south. The rubble concrete foundation is exposed on these elevations.

The building is more formally finished with white glazed terra cotta on its west and north street elevations. On these elevations, the concrete base is clad with an off-white terra cotta with colored flecks that simulate a granite finish. White terra cotta cladding situated above the base is set in regular courses and features deeply recessed horizontal joints. The effect is that of finely dressed stone masonry. These elevations are organized in three-part horizontal divisions reminiscent of a Renaissance palazzo. A shallow projecting bay, on the west elevation, is two stories in height and identifies the formal entrance to lodge quarters on the second story level. The building entablature is simple, with a narrow projecting cornice over modillion blocks, and a parapet with shell and scroll motifs in sculptural relief.

At the northeast corner of the building is the cornerstone that reads:

LAI BY THE M.W. GRAND LODGE
OF F&AM OF WASHINGTON
JAN. 10th A.L. 5924
TOM W. HOLMAN GRAND MASTER

On the northwest corner of the building is a brass plaque, hung at an unknown date, which reads:

THIS SITE
DONATED BY
AARON S. NEELY SR.
AND SARAH NEELY
APRIL 26, 1923

Three commercial storefront bays face East Main along the north elevation of the building, and two separate storefront bays face Auburn Way S. on the west elevation at the north and south ends of the facade. These storefronts have undergone of alterations over time. Those at the north elevation and northwest corner were remodeled in the early 1950s to include an aluminum storefront system with green terra cotta bulkheads. These aluminum window sash units replaced the traditional wooden storefronts. The three separate commercial spaces and entrances that originally faced East Main

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are now reconfigured into a single commercial space and entryway. The storefront at the north end of the west elevation (on Auburn Way) is part of that commercial space and similar in alteration. The storefront at the south end of that facade is differently altered, with a 1950s sandstone bulkhead, plywood siding, aluminum sash, and a suspended metal canopy. The formal entrance to the upper floor level Masonic lodge quarters is also on Auburn Way and retains most of its original architectural character. The entry is accentuated by a formal terra cotta-clad molded surround and a shelf entablature incised with "Masonic Temple." Modern cladding material has been installed in the recessed architrave and the entrance door and transom window are modern aluminum products.

Fenestration remains one of the most distinctive overall features of the temple. Arched second story windows set in groups of two and three create a rhythm across the north and west upper floor level facades. All have round arch heads distinguished by radiating terra cotta voussoirs, and each has a recessed tympanum with simple geometric designs in relief. Most decorative is the double recessed arch in the bay above the Masonic Temple entrance. Here two arched windows separated by an engaged Corinthian column with spiral column shaft are set within a more prominent recessed archway. Sculptural relief in the tympanum of the larger arch consists of a cartouche with the symbolic Masonic "square and compass" image against a background of acanthus leaves. All of the original second story window sash (six-over-one light, wooden sash) has been replaced by vertical, fixed and pivoted aluminum sash. Apart from the storefronts, window openings on the ground floor are limited to five square openings on the west (Auburn Way S.) elevation. Of these openings, two have been in-filled with terra cotta, and three include iron security bars.

The east and rear façade are of common brick and are generally devoid of windows and decorative details.

Interior

The interior of the Masonic Temple has been modified over the years to accommodate various ground floor businesses and meet the changing needs of King Solomon Lodge No. 60 on the second floor.

Portions of the basement, originally one large open space, were partitioned for use as a mortuary in the 1930s and '40s. A vault was later framed in along the east side of the basement below the ground floor space occupied by a bank. First floor shop spaces have been radically altered. The three separate commercial spaces fronting on East Main were apparently joined for bank occupancy in the 1950s, eliminating their interior partitions. The storefront space facing Auburn Way retains its original tin ceiling.

At the upper floor level, the original floor plan appears largely intact. Alterations are limited to c.1960s finishes on walls, ceilings, and floors. Wood paneling covers most of the walls, carpet covers the floors, and acoustical tiles cover the ceilings. The lodge room is the most historically intact space in the building, still conveying its 1920s character. It contains the original high coved ceiling (now covered with acoustical material), and the original balcony that overlooks the meeting hall below through an unusual elliptical opening. All of the early dark-stained ornamental woodwork and furnishings, including built-in raised ceremonial seating, remains in place around the hall at the four cardinal points. Decorative plaster cornice molding (originally finished in gold leaf) hides indirect lighting which washes the arched ceiling with soft light. Reportedly the ceiling was painted to resemble a blue sky with clouds. Entry to the lodge rooms is through two sets of double doors, the exterior of which is covered with light blue vinyl highlighted by brass tacks, some of which are arranged to form a masonic symbol.

Physical Integrity

The Auburn Masonic Temple has undergone a fair degree of incremental change over the years. Exterior modifications include the alteration of storefronts and the replacement of all original window sash. Interior changes include new floor, wall, and ceiling finishes in every area except the lodge meeting room. On the other hand, the building has been well maintained and offers considerable potential for rehabilitation. Original massing, intact terra cotta cladding and the rhythm of structural openings still impart the intent of the Heath, Gove, & Bell design. The intact character of the lodge meeting room adds to the overall integrity of the workmanship, materials, design, and feeling of the building.

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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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1924 - 1953

Significant Dates

1924

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Heath, Gove & Bell (Architect)

Kelly, Thomas W. (Builder)

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

The King Solomon Lodge No. 60 is historically significant under Criterion A for its direct connections to the broad patterns of social history in the City of Auburn and the surrounding communities. The lodge was an unusually sophisticated, urban version of fraternal architecture for a town of less than 3,500. It remains today the only fraternal hall in the city still in its original use. The building also directly reflects the rapid growth of Auburn as an agricultural market and regional rail center during the prosperous decades of the 1910s and '20s. Its construction marked the resulting eastward expansion of Main Street, particularly after the diversion and filling of the White River channel along Auburn Way in 1917. Because of its prominent location and stature, the building housed two well-established Auburn businesses: a funeral parlor and a bank. Completed in 1924, the two story temple is also significant under Criterion C as a property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type and period of construction. Additionally the building represents the design work of the highly respected Tacoma-based architectural firm of Heath, Gove and Bell.

The period of significance begins in 1924, the date of completion of the building and ends in 1953, the date of the last major alterations to the structure.

Lodge History

As early as 1886, settlers in the farming community of Auburn (originally named Slaughter) and the Green and White River valleys gathered to discuss the feasibility of forming a local Masonic lodge. These prospective members had been affiliated with the Masonic order in their previous hometowns and states. Because of this meeting and subsequent discussions, St. Andrews Lodge No. 35 in Renton was asked to sponsor a new lodge. The applicants prepared the necessary paperwork, petitioning the Grand Master for dispensation to establish the new lodge. In May of 1889, shortly before Washington Territory became a state, the Grand Lodge issued that dispensation. The following year, on June 11, 1890, a charter was granted to King Solomon Lodge No.60. Henry A. Libby was named Master; William T. Myrick, Senior Warden; and George Hart, Junior Warden. The Masons were the second fraternal order to be established in Auburn, following the Knights of Pythias by only a few months.

Auburn Masons were proud of the fact that Lt. William Slaughter, who lost his life in hostilities with White River natives in 1855 and for whom the town was named, was the Past Master of Steilacoom Masonic Lodge #2. They were equally proud of the first governor of newly established Washington State, Elisha P. Ferry, was a Past Grand Master of Masons in Washington. The tradition of member prominence was continued in Auburn, where early leaders of the community such as C.H. French, Vice President of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Slaughter, C.P. Lacey, liveryman and hotel owner, and Aaron Neely, valley pioneer, joined the ranks of King Solomon Lodge No. 60.

Like other Masonic organizations, Auburn's Masons were dedicated to mutual support, sociability, and involvement with the community. In its formative years, the Lodge experienced two difficult setbacks when, in 1897 and again in 1898, fire destroyed all of its records, regalia, and (in 1898) jewels on loan from the Grand Lodge. However, the group persisted. In 1901, the Cyclamen Chapter No. 65 Order of Eastern Star, a women's auxiliary was established. Other concordant bodies took shape - Damascus Shrine #3 was chartered in 1920, Auburn Chapter of #46, and the Royal Arch Masons was constituted in 1922.

The farming community of Auburn had enjoyed the gradual improvement of local rail service through the 1880s and 1890s. These circumstances changed considerably in 1900 when the Northern Pacific rerouted its main line over Stampede Pass directly into the city. The town suddenly became the transfer point for Seattle, Tacoma, and other points east. The rail yard was greatly expanded to accommodate

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the servicing of rolling stock, and the breaking and reforming of both local and transcontinental trains. The presence of the railroad strengthened local agriculture, especially dairying and market gardening, and stimulated local business and industry. Between 1900 and 1910, the population of Auburn doubled, and plats for nine additions were filed. Prosperity made progressive municipal improvements possible such as the construction of the first city hall, an expanded public water system, a new library, and a high school. Civic, religious and social organizations also flourished.

With continuing prosperity in the 1920s, established organizations like the Masons looked optimistically toward the future. Through the 1890s and 1910s, King Solomon Lodge No. 60 had met in five different rented halls situated around town. These included Neely Hall, Trinity Hall, Mystic Hall, and Cyclamen Hall. After much discussion, the Lodge made a decision to erect a new temple building to accommodate its own activities, and those of its concordant groups. To plan and carry out the project, a building committee was appointed in October of 1921. For some years, the Lodge had owned a vacant site at the corner of Auburn Avenue and Second Street NE, but the committee felt strongly that the new building should front on Main Street, the thriving commercial thoroughfare. Brother Aaron Neely and his wife Sarah donated a new building site on East Main and C Street SE (now Auburn Way S.), free and clear of debt and ready for development.

Excavation of the site in preparation for construction had begun by mid-September of 1923. Brother Thomas W. Kelly served as the Lodge's supervisor of construction. A festive cornerstone ceremony was held on January 10, 1924. This event received coverage in the local press, which noted good attendance, with participation by Grand Master Tom Holman of Olympia and music by the Auburn Quartet. The *Auburn Globe -Republican* of June 27, 1924, contained the first meeting notice for the new location, "F & AM meeting in New Masonic Temple."

After occupying the new building in the summer of 1924, King Solomon Lodge No. 60 continued to expand its role in the community. Several youth organizations were formed in the 1920s, including DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, and Job's Daughters. Lodge membership rose impressively from 192 in 1924, to a peak of 451 in 1961. Over the years, the Lodge sponsored innumerable social events such as the annual Children's Christmas Party. The temple dance hall was made available to other organizations for rent. The Lodge also contributed regularly to community improvements ranging from development of parks to social services. Current activities include a high school scholarship program supported by the annual King Solomon Charity Golf Classic, and three outreach programs that supply reading books to the local public schools. Today, King Solomon Lodge No. 60 remains a viable organization, and the Masonic Temple is the only fraternal building, out of six major lodges that once operated in Auburn, to remain in its original use.

Architecture

While information regarding the architectural selection process is unknown, interior detail drawings (currently on file in the Lodge vault) indicates that the Tacoma firm of Heath, Gove, and Bell were hired to design the building. The choice of such an accomplished architectural firm hints at not only the prosperity of the Lodge, and general confidence in the economy, but perhaps a shared vision of Auburn's urban future.

Heath, Gove, and Bell (both collectively and individually) were perhaps the most influential architects to practice during the early development of Tacoma. They designed many fine houses in the Stadium-Seminary Historic District in Tacoma, along with the National Realty Building (1910) on Pacific Avenue in Tacoma. When completed, the bank building was the tallest building on the west coast and the first "skyscraper" west of the Mississippi. It housed the firm's office situated on the top floor. Other notable structures include Stadium High School (1906) and Knight of Pythian temple (1907) in Tacoma; and Paradise Inn (1917) at Mt. Rainier. They had already completed designs for at least one Masonic Temple in South Prairie (1914); and went on to design at least one additional lodge, the Fern Hill

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Masonic Temple (1922). Heath, with an earlier partner, had also designed the grand seven-story Masonic Temple in Yakima (1911) and Gove had designed the Classical Revival style Masonic Temple in Olympia (1911).

Frederick Henry Heath was a self-taught architect who moved west from Minneapolis, in 1893 after working for ten years under Warren Hayes, a noted Minneapolis architect. Heath's move to Tacoma unfortunately coincided with the financial panic of 1893 and work was initially scarce. While records indicate that he opened his first office in Tacoma in 1896, little is known of these early years. In 1901, he became a partner in the firm of Spaulding, Russell & Heath. Following the departure of A. Walter Spaulding for Seattle in 1902, Heath and A. J. Russell formed a new firm, Russell & Heath. It was during this period that Heath became the official school architect for the City of Tacoma and began a long association with school construction. The partnership between Russell and Heath was short-lived however, and in 1903 Heath was back on his own. Five years later in 1908, Heath entered into a partnership with Luther Twichell (1867-1939), a friend and former Warren Hayes' draftsman who had decided to move west from Minneapolis to join Heath in his practice. This partnership was also short-lived and by 1910 Heath returned to sole practitioner.

In 1912 Frederick Heath's luck with partners changed with the creation of the firm Heath & Gove (a partnership that would last the rest of his life). George Gove (1869-1956) had arrived in Tacoma from Rochester, Minnesota in 1908 and practiced on his own until joining with Heath. With business growing, in 1914 the partnership was expanded by adding Herbert A. Bell (1884 -1951). Bell was born and raised in Tacoma and had been a draftsman for Heath for over eight years. The firm name remained unchanged until 1919 when it was formally renamed Heath, Gove & Bell. This trio of architects was active in a variety of architectural designs in Tacoma and the surrounding communities for almost forty years until the death of Bell in 1951. In an interview in the *Tacoma News Tribune* in 1951 Heath noted on his 90th birthday that he still enjoyed going to the office every working day, and so he did until shortly before his death in 1953. The office remained open until the death of Gove in 1956.

Heath's practice lasted just short of sixty years in Tacoma and his monumental works can still be seen today across the Northwest. He served as School Architect for the Tacoma School District from 1903 through 1920, and many of his school buildings are still in use throughout the city. His firm's work exhibited a broad spectrum of building types and scales including residential, commercial, ecumenical, park structures, hospitals and public buildings. The Auburn Masonic Lodge is typical of many of their designs during the 1920s.

To clad the structure, the firm took advantage of the locally sourced terra cotta from the Northern Clay Company. In 1906, Northern Clay had expanded an earlier kiln operation on Third and A Street NW. The business was reorganized by Paul S. MacMichael in 1913, and afterward prospered as the maker of brick, clay tile, and high quality terra cotta which used extensively in the construction of commercial buildings in downtown Seattle and throughout the West. MacMichael was on excellent terms with regional architects. According to the *Auburn Globe: Republican*, he hosted an annual luncheon of the American Institute of Architects with a tour of his factory during the very week that King Solomon Lodge No. 60 moved into its new building.

The local newspaper recorded the progress of construction on the new building at various intervals, giving a glimpse of the community's reaction to the project. On September 13, 1923, the *Auburn Globe-Republican* reported the start of excavation, with the headline "Temple to be Structure of Rare Beauty," and included a rendering of the proposed building. The article described plans for the second story that would include a "big" lodge room measuring 40 x 53 feet in dimension, three small offices, an Eastern Star room, men's club room, coat room, lobby, prep and ante rooms, kitchen, lavatories, and a banquet room. Four ground floor shop spaces and a large open basement were also specifically mentioned. On June 6, 1924, the *Auburn Globe* reported that "the beautiful white terra cotta exterior is complete" and

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that W.T. Kelly had a large force of men working on interior finishes. The article reported that another month would be required to complete "the palatial new Masonic lodge at East Main and C Streets."

Other local firms that contributed the construction of Auburn Masonic Temple include:

- Samuel Hayes - Brick Contractor and Masonry
- Hart, Phillips & Shaughnessy - Concrete and Excavation
- Valley Electric Company - Provided fixtures and ventilation system
- Davis Plumbing - heating and ventilation system
- W.E. Ester Plumbing Co. - Plumbing
- Sumner Electric Company - Electrical Work
- Gregory & Chamberlain - Paint
- McKerg & Cooper - Paint
- M. Endres - Plaster work
- Forest View Lumber Co - Lumber
- Colby-Dickinson Inc. - Lumber

Upon completion, a grand dedication ceremony for the building took place on October 1st, 1924 with about 400 people in attendance. Regional Masonic orders from Auburn, Kent, Enumclaw, Seattle, Tacoma and others gathered to celebrate the new building. The dedication ceremony was directed by the new Grand Master at the time, Robert C. McCroskey. After the dedication, a program followed which included the unveiling of photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Neely (which remain in the lodge to this day) a speech by a selectively chosen member of the Masonic youth group followed by singing, piano music and readings. This was concluded by dancing and servings of punch and wafers.

Heath, Gove & Bell designed the Temple in the Italian Renaissance Revival Style. The style was inspired by 14th and 15th century wealthy Florentine merchant buildings in Italy. Urban palazzo such as those constructed for the Medici family, were used as direct inspiration of the rebirth of the style during the 20th century. The word "Renaissance" means "rebirth", and designers of the original Renaissance style had studied Greek and Roman building forms and details in order to employ a feeling that a building could display wealth, artist knowledge, and pride. It was during this time, that many designers rediscovered a theory of perfection in architectural design called the Golden Section.

Five hundred years later the style reemerged as architects began to look for new architectural inspiration during the early part of the 19th century. Here in the Pacific Northwest, the Italian Renaissance Revival Style was late to take hold, and can be found mainly during the mid to late 1920s. It was utilized primarily for commercial and civic buildings such as libraries, social lodges, courthouses or banks. However examples can be found on large-scale single family residences and apartment complexes.

Usually rectangular in plan, the style features symmetrical facades, with masonry or stone exterior walls highlighted by cast stone or terra cotta detailing. Often, the formal design is distinguished by a rusticated ground level and quoining at the corners of the main facade.

Other distinguishing elements include a strong division of floors by elaborate string courses, which often define the sills of windows; rows of round topped windows made up of two lights under one arch separated by a colonette; and a deep articulated cornice. Windows of a different type are often found on each floor and are commonly highlighted by strongly marked vousoirs, pilasters, spandrel panels or pediments.

Most Italian Renaissance Revival Style buildings have low pitched or flat roofs which are hidden by cornices, short parapet walls or balustrades. Small scale examples such as depots and dwellings, utilize hip roofs with wide overhanging eaves covered in clay tile, which harkens to the Mediterranean roots of the style. The Auburn Temple is a good example of the style.

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The Temple has undergone a few changes over the years such as new upper-story, shop windows and doors being installed sometime around the 1960's, a metal awning was added over the East side shop, which is currently the comic book store. Drop ceilings or asbestos tile were placed over the original ceilings with only the East side shop interior being spared. An elevator to the second story was installed as well around this time.

Architectural drawings for some subsequent remodeling projects also survive in the Lodge vault. A 1952-53 set of drawings by architect Percy G. Ball of Tacoma records the modification for a morgue at the south end ground floor and basement levels. Although no drawings depicting it survive, exterior modifications to the storefronts and windows, dating from this same decade, were likely inspired (and perhaps financed by) the National Bank of Commerce, the new ground floor tenant. Another set of drawings by architects Don Allison & Associates of Auburn document a 1960 interior remodel of the kitchen and other Lodge spaces on the second floor.

As of 2015 the Auburn Masonic Temple remains in the hands of the Freemasons.

Commerce

The population of Auburn tripled between 1910 and 1920, rising from 857 to 3,163. Both economic and physical growth were welcomed by the City government and business community. During this time frame, the town developed rapidly - new streets were laid, old ones renamed, and residential neighborhoods expanded. By 1930, Auburn occupied an area of approximately 1.4 square miles.

Downtown Auburn was transformed by a larger, more ambitious project - the final elimination of the White River channel for purposes of valley flood control. The river corridor had long served as Auburn's eastern city limits, running generally from south to north along the future alignment of C Street, later to be named Auburn Way. After permanent diversion of the river in 1913, the dry bed remained for a time. A bridge on First Street (later East Main) crossed over the channel about where the new Masonic Temple would soon rise. When the channel was filled in 1917, new commercial development pushed eastward along Main Street. C Street was constructed along the in-filled river corridor, creating the intersection where the Temple now stands. It was very likely this trend toward business expansion to the east that encouraged King Solomon Lodge No. 60 to secure the prominent building site at the corner of East Main and C Street SE.

City directories, Sanborn Insurance maps, and local newspapers partially document the sequence of commercial tenants in the Masonic Temple building. The inclusion of income-generating ground floor space is a typical feature of fraternal hall design in both rural and urban settings. The record suggests that Auburn's Masonic Lodge was no exception to this rule. In fact, some of its long-time tenants lend commercial significance to the building. City directories and Sanborn maps include the following listings:

- 1929: 302 E. Main - Dry goods, gentlemen's furnishings, and boots & shoes
 306 E. Main - Store
 310 E. Main, C St. - Office and Undertaker
- 1931-32: 302 E. Main - Auburn House of Bargains
 310 E. Main - James Lemar "Funeral Director & Licensed Embalmer"
- 1934: Auburn House of Bargains (M. Kaminof)
 Masonic Temple Bldg.
- 1941: 302 E. Main - the Checkerboard
 306 E. Main - Isabella Beauty Salon
 310 E. Main - James F. Lemar, Funeral Director

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1945: 302 E. Main - Store
306 E. Main - Store
310 E. Main, C St. - Office and Undertaker

1946: 310 E. Main -Ralph Smith Insurance
10 C Street -Taylor Lemar Mortuary

1948: 302-306 E. Main -The Stylist

1958: 302 E. Main -National Bank of Commerce

Other, as yet undocumented, tenants included (in rough chronological order):

- Farmers' Cash and Carry Store
- Blanche's Beauty Shop
- James Ewing Real Estate
- Northwest Surveying and Mapping Co.
- Les Brett and Harold C. Lake Props.
- U.S. Army & Navy Recruiting Office
- Equity Realty
- Bell & Anderson Realty
- Lee Brothers Martial Arts School

The longest-lasting tenant in the building was the Lemar Mortuary, or Taylor Lemar Mortuary. This business appears to have had a presence in the building from at least 1929, through 1956. For most of that time period, it occupied an L-shaped space that connected the 310 East Main storefront space to the C Street (or Auburn Way) shop space, as well as space in the basement. By 1946, the mortuary retained only the C Street storefront. Architectural plans by architect Percy Ball dating from 1952-53 show a reworking of the basement and remaining first floor mortuary space.

Another notable occupant was the National Bank of Commerce, which was located at 302 East Main for most of the period between 1950 and 1962. The extensive alteration of the building's original storefronts and fenestration, undertaken by the Lodge in the early 1950s, is likely related to securing the bank as a long-term tenant. The bank apparently expanded across all of the East Main storefronts (reducing three entrances to one). It also made some changes in the basement, including construction of a vault and access to it from the bank floor.

For more than 75 years, the Masonic Temple has anchored a prominent intersection at the heart of downtown Auburn. In addition to its architectural distinction and its association with the vigor of Auburn's commerce in the 1920s, the Temple building embodies a long and enduring tradition of Masonic social involvement in the community.

Note: The nomination was largely derived from the local landmark nomination prepared by Flo Lentz in 2001.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"400 Attend Dedication of Temple." Auburn Globe Republican 3 Oct. 1924, 36th Year ed., Number 29 sec.: 1.

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Melin, Don. Member, King Solomon Lodge No. 60. October 25, 2001.

Rottle, Don and Carol. Past Master, 1956, King Solomon Lodge No. 60. October 24, 2001.

Saelid, Jack. Former Chairman, Temple Board Association, King Solomon Lodge No. 60. Personal interview and site visit, October 18, 2001.

Taylor, Pat. Employee of former building tenant Jim Ewing. October 25, 2001.

King County, WA
County and State

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☒ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
 Name of repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

UTM References NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

3 Zone Easting Northing

4 Zone Easting Northing

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

3

Latitude	Longitude
----------	-----------

4
Latitude Longitude

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

The nominated property is situated at the southeast corner of E. Main Street and Auburn Way S., in downtown Auburn, Washington and is legally described as Lot 31 of the River View Addition. It is otherwise known as Tax Lot #733140-0475.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary encompasses the entire urban tax lot that is occupied by the Masonic Temple Building.

Auburn Masonic Temple
Name of Property

King County, WA
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Flo Lentz , Chad E. Lester (Edited by DAHP Staff)

organization King Solomon Lodge

date _____

street & number 1231 43rd St NE

telephone 360-757-3221

city or town Auburn

state WA

zip code 98002

e-mail chad_p71@yahoo.com

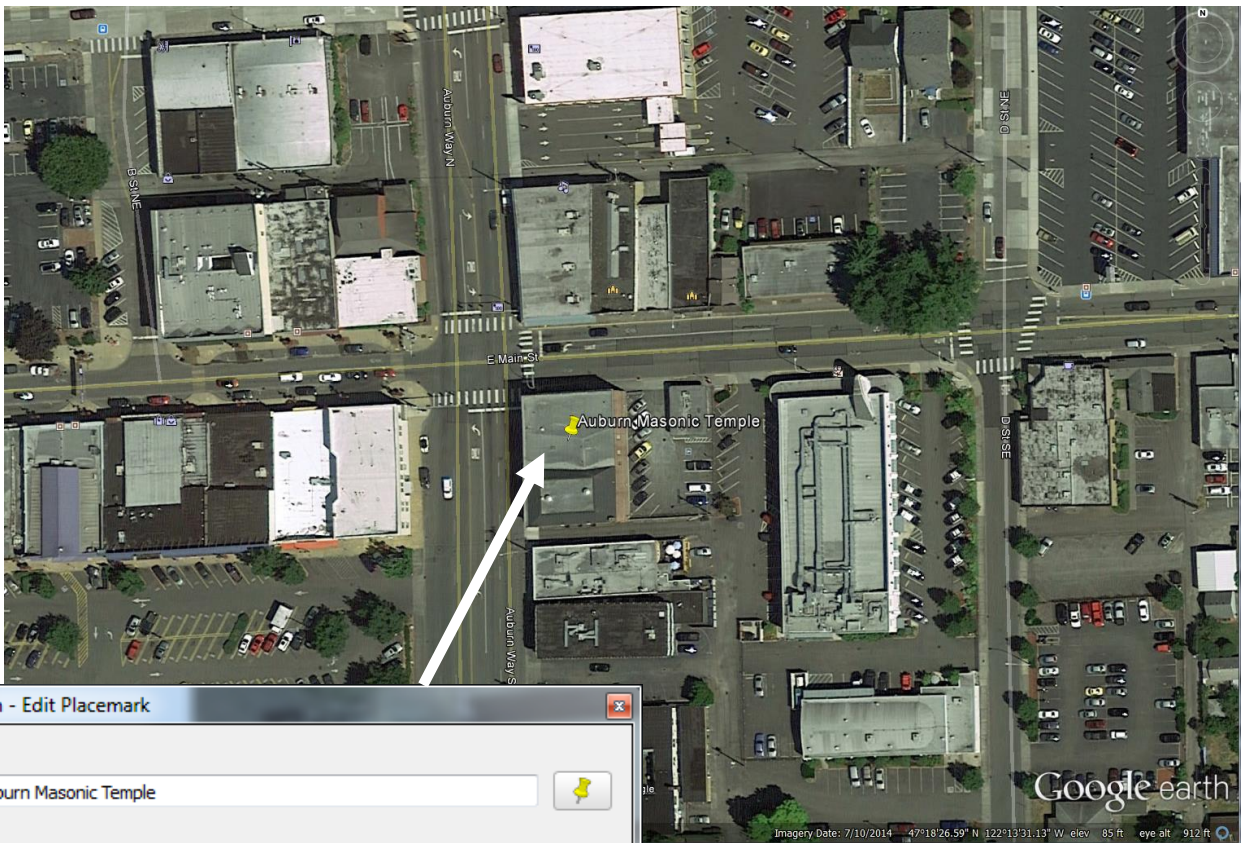
Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

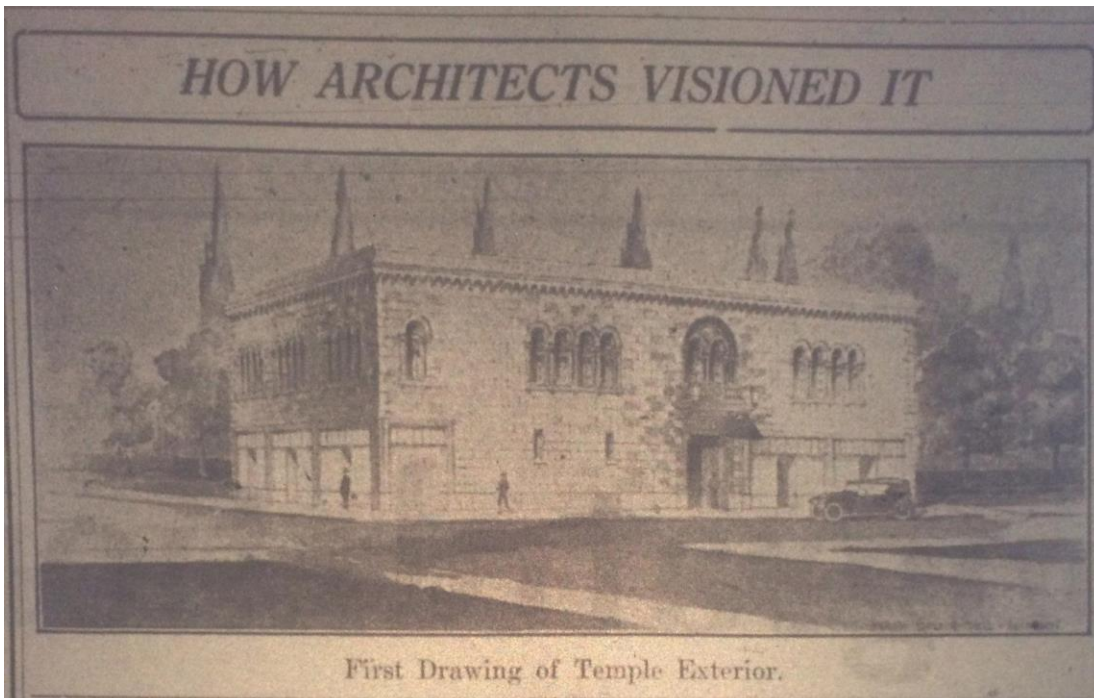
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)



Auburn Masonic Temple
Name of Property

King County, WA
County and State



Architects Rendering – Auburn Globe Republican, January 4, 1924.



Photograph of nearly completed Temple building – Auburn Globe Republican, August 1, 1924.

Auburn Masonic Temple

Name of Property

King County, WA

County and State



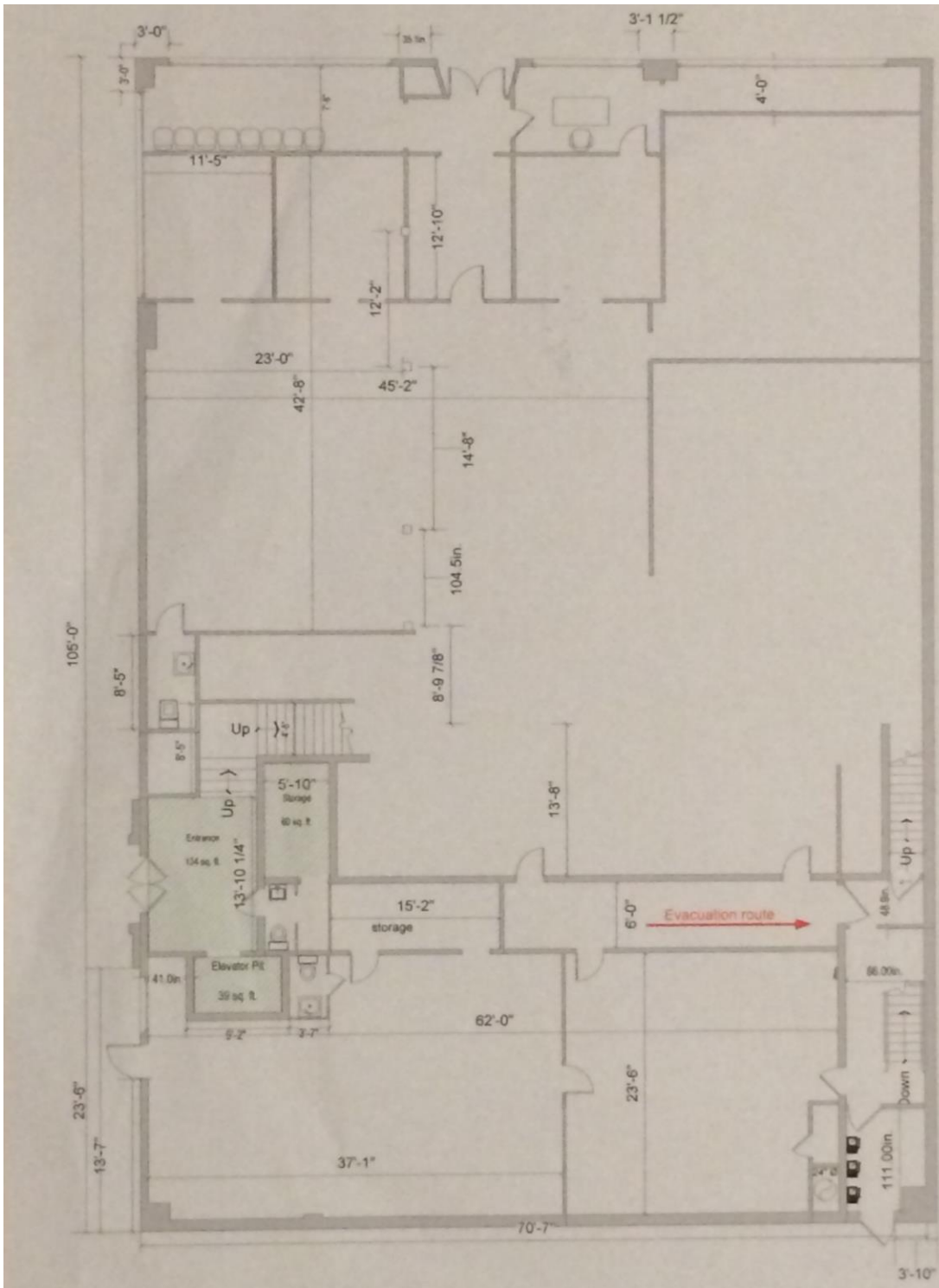
Photograph of nearly completed Temple building.



Photograph of King Solomon Lodge No. 60 members in Lodge room, c. 1955.

King County, WA
County and State

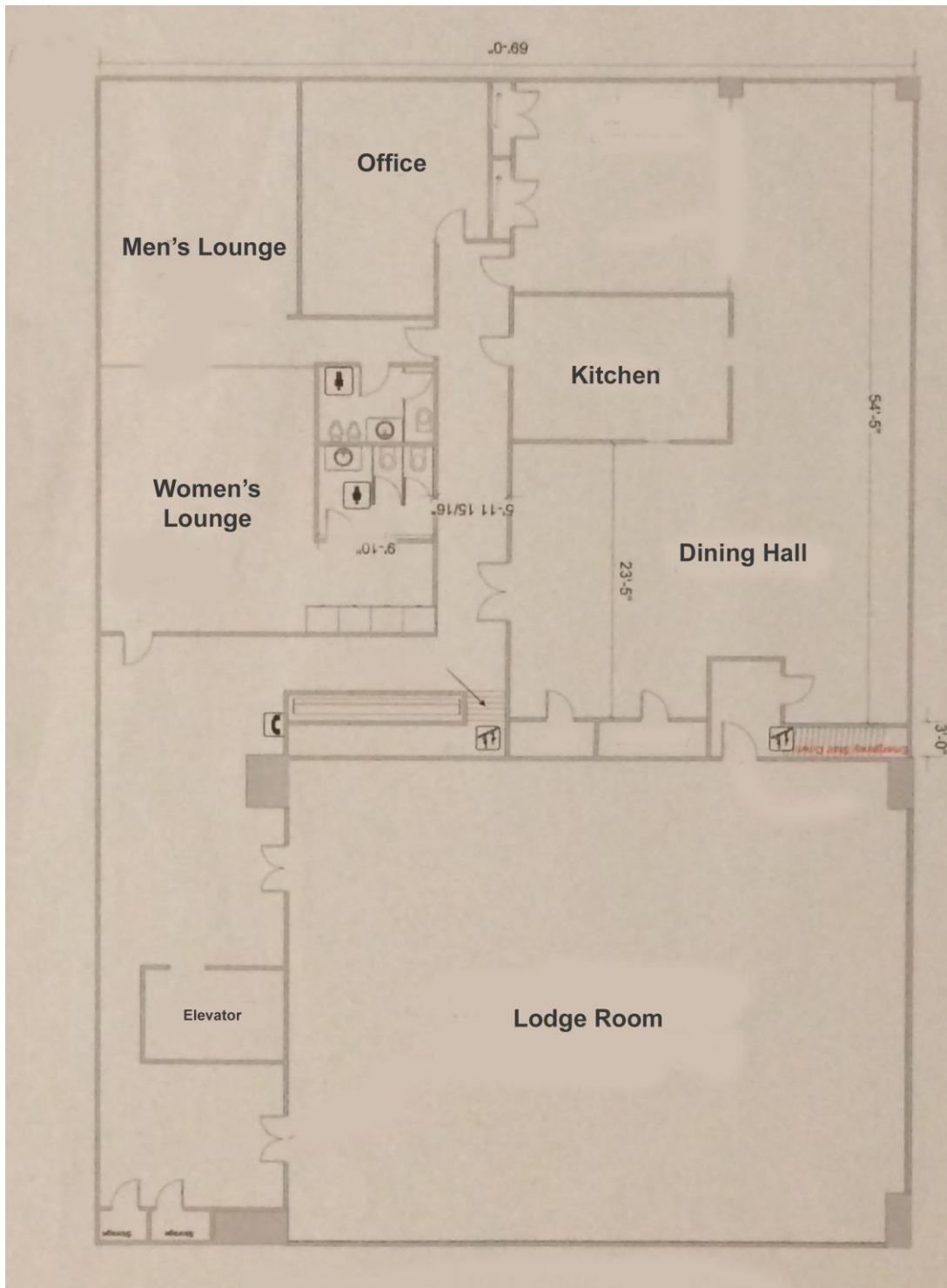
N



17

Auburn Masonic Temple
Name of Property

King County, WA
County and State



Auburn Masonic Temple
Floor Plan – not to scale
Second Floor

Auburn Masonic Temple
Name of Property

King County, WA
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Masonic Lodge - Auburn

City or Vicinity: Auburn

County: King

State: Washington

Photographer: Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian

Date Photographed: May 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number:



1 of 13
North façade facing E. Main Street.

Auburn Masonic Temple

Name of Property

King County, WA

County and State



2 of 13

West façade facing Auburn Way.



3 of 13

Northeast corner looking south showing side façade facing parking area.

Auburn Masonic Temple

Name of Property

King County, WA

County and State



4 of 13
Lodge room looking east.



5 of 13
Lodge room looking west.

Auburn Masonic Temple

Name of Property

King County, WA

County and State



6 of 13
Lodge balcony area.



7 of 13
Double entry doors to Lodge room, south set.

Auburn Masonic Temple

Name of Property

King County, WA

County and State



8 of 13
Lodge room lobby area.



9 of 13
Second floor hallway looking north from stairwell.

Auburn Masonic Temple

Name of Property

King County, WA

County and State



10 of 13
Dining Hall looking south.



11 of 13
Dining Hall kitchen area looking west.

Auburn Masonic Temple
Name of Property

King County, WA
County and State



12 of 13
Interior of Auburn Way Storefront.



13 of 13
Interior of E Main Street Storefront.

Auburn Masonic Temple
Name of Property

King County, WA
County and State

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

name King Solomon Lodge No. 60
street & number 10 Auburn Way S. telephone _____
city or town Auburn state WA zip code 98002

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 18 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.