

Devils Lake Masonic Lodge #21

AF&AM Endowment

When Devils Lake Masonic Lodge #21 AF&AM* was established on June 11, 1885, a local paper, the *Inter-Ocean*, described the installation ceremony as one of the greatest events in the history of the town which was then but three years old. The city had been established in 1882 by Lt. Heber N. Creel as Creelsburgh. It was renamed Creel City in 1883 and became Devils Lake in 1884. Situated on the transcontinental line of the Great Northern Railway, the city was a thriving, prosperous city of approximately six thousand and the business hub of the Lake Region.

Since that grand opening, Devils Lake Masonic Lodge #21 has been a vibrant organization supporting many good causes within its community. There are currently about seventy members who meet monthly at the Masonic Temple. Eastern Star is the women's auxiliary organization, and the Shriners is an appendant body to the Masons. Rainbow and Demolay, for young women and men respectively, have offered opportunities for development and growth.

The Devils Lake Masonic Lodge has long been associated with well known families in its community: first Ramsey County treasurer J.W. Palmer; U.S. Senator H.C. Hansborough; first Ramsey County register of deeds John A. Percival; Pony Express mail carrier and later N.D. Senator Frank Palmer; N.D. State Senator James McCormick; S. L. Wine- man, Devils Lake merchant and owner of the Opera House; and the Masonic Temple's designer, Architect Joseph A. Shannon.

Organized over six hundred years ago, Freemasonry is the oldest and largest fraternal organization in the world. Many of the founding fathers of this nation were Masons, including thirteen signers of the

Constitution. Fourteen U.S. Presidents were Brother Masons beginning with George Washington. Over four million Masons live in the United States representing diverse ethnic, religious, vocational, and political backgrounds. They continue to build this fraternity on the cornerstones of friendship, benevolence, and self-improvement, meeting upon the level and parting upon the square as represented in their insignia.

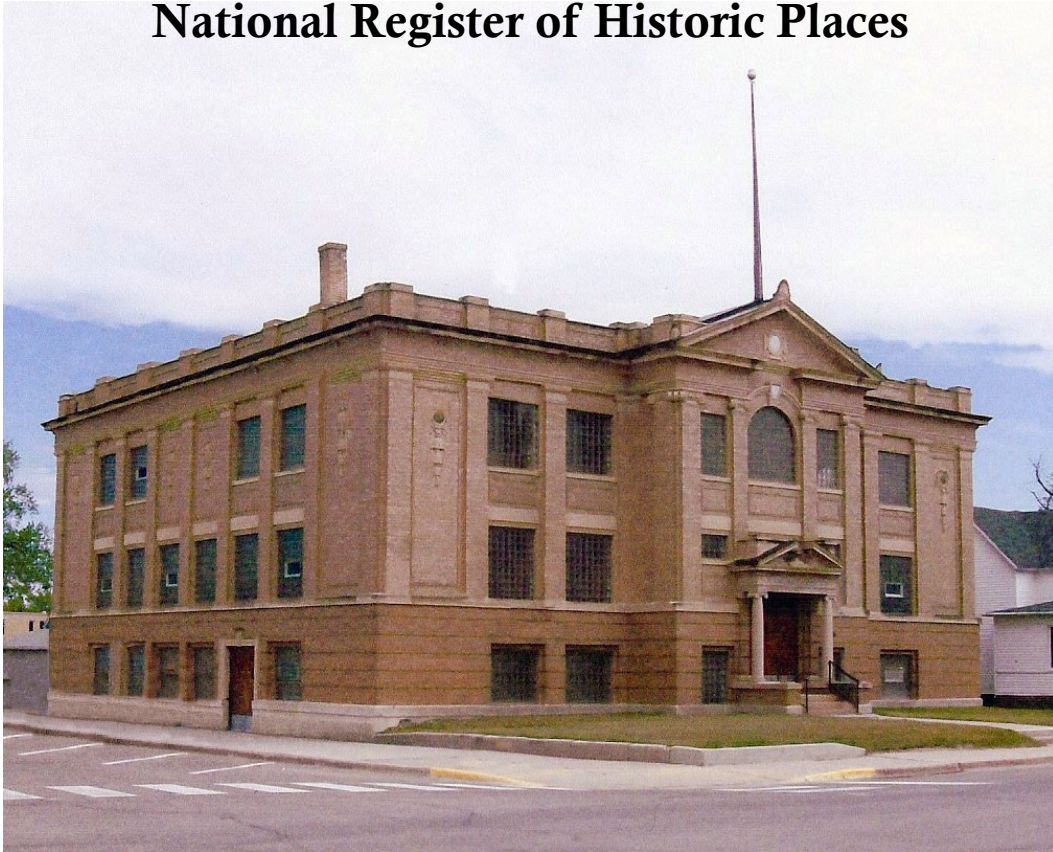


- A Mason professes faith in a higher being. He uses the tools of moral and ethical truths to serve mankind.
- A Mason binds himself in a brotherhood that transcends all religious, ethical, social, cultural, and educational difference.
 - A Mason finds ways to serve his god, his family, his fellow man, and his country.
 - A Mason recognizes his responsibility for justice, truth, charity, enlightenment, freedom, liberty, honesty, brotherly love, and integrity in all aspects of human endeavor.

Masons support a variety of philanthropies and community efforts which include a child identification program, Alzheimer's research, auditory research, reading disorders and impaired vision programs, food drives, youth music programs, elderly independent living, health care, a children's home, and other cultural, historical, and literary causes. They understand the importance of public education and supported the first public schools in both Europe and America. The Devils Lake Hope Center has benefited from the generosity of the Masons, as well as the scholarship program at Lake Region State College. Members of Devils Lake Masonic Lodge #21 developed this scholarship endowment to be awarded annually to an exemplary North Dakota student with a Masonic background or connection. •

* *Titles of Grand Lodges in the United States vary. Some are called A.F. & A.M., which means Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. The other most commonly used title is F. & A.M., or Free and Accepted Masons. The reason for this difference is that in England when Grand Lodges first started, there was a rivalry between two factions of Masons. One faction adopted the title "Ancient" and the other did not. This carried over to the United States where both titles are still in existence.*

Devils Lake Masonic Temple listed on National Register of Historic Places



Located at the corner of Sixth Street and Fourth Avenue, the Devils Lake Masonic Temple was built in 1916. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. Its nomination asserts that the building “possesses an outstanding collection of stylistic elements which typify the Classical Revival style. It stands as a detached building with each façade reflecting the principles of the Classical Revival and its concerns for proportion and symmetry as interpreted by its designer, local architect Joseph A. Shannon (1859-1934).”

Masons forever ...

Devils Lake Masonic Lodge #21 AF&AM forever ...

Devils Lake Masonic Lodge #21 AF&AM Endowment forever