

A Look Back in Time

The Masonic Temple, located at 807-61st Street, was built in 1924 by Chicago architect, Richard Gustave Schmid.

Section 15.04 of the City's Zoning Ordinance establishes standards for designating structures and sites as historic and the site or structure must meet at least one of these standards. It was determined that The Masonic Temple is architecturally significant under Standards 1: "exemplifies or reflects the City's cultural... history." 3., "Embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period, style, method of construction, or of indigenous materials or craftsmanship." And 6., "Historic structure or site which is on the National or State Register of Historic Places."



The Masonic Temple was designed by Chicago architect Richard Gustav Schmid, who specialized in designing Masonic Temples. It is done in the Neo-Classical Revival style. The front and east facades are clad in smooth ashlar limestone, while the rear and west facades are constructed of tan and brick. The two-story building has symmetrical composition and features a stone cornice on the front and east facades, above which is a parapet with baulstrade around a raised third story, built of brick. The raised story has a standing seam metal hipped roof and is decorated with pilasters. The single pane, double-hung sash windows on the front and east facades have cornice hood molds on the first floor and the central entrance is covered by a partially enclosed portico, supported by two large Ionic columns.

The Masons have been meeting in Kenosha since the mid-nineteenth century. By 1935, the numerous individual lodges of the fraternal group had 800 members.

