

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

Final

**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 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 an 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 Camden Masonic Temple  
other names/site number Mount Zion Lodge #211

**2. Location**

street & number 213 West Main Street N/A  not for publication  
city or town Camden N/A  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Carroll code 015 zip code 46917

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 36CFR 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.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official/Title  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

11-8-03  
Date

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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
- district
- site
- structure
- object
- landscape

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store

COMMERCE/TRADE: Department Store

COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional

DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business

DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque

foundation: BRICK

walls: BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof: ASPHALT

other: STONE: slate

METAL

**Narrative Description**

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

**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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY \_\_\_\_\_

COMMERCE \_\_\_\_\_

ARCHITECTURE \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1902-1952 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1902 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Krutch, C.S. & Co. \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

(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: \_\_\_\_\_

Camden Masonic Temple  
Name of Property

Carroll IN  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

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

1	16	538860	4495210	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
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.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Amy Walker; Dorothy George, Billie Hedde, Barbara McCain  
organization DHPA; Camden Community Preservation Society date 02-01-2002  
street & number P.O. Box 285; 460 West Main Street telephone 574/ 686-2867  
city or town Camden state IN zip code 46917-0285

## 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Camden Masonic Temple/ Mount Zion Lodge #211  
street & number 213 West Main Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Camden state IN zip code 46917

**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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Camden Masonic Temple or Mount Zion Lodge #211 is a three story, brick and limestone building that fills an entire block in the Main Street commercial area of Camden, Indiana. Though Camden was platted near meandering Deer Creek, most of the town is situated on level terrain.

The Masonic Temple is Romanesque Revival in style and was completed in 1902. Foundations are limestone with mostly brick visible above grade. Walls are brick with limestone detailing. The roof is flat (shed) on all portions of the building except the corner tower. Like many fraternal lodges, rental of ground floor commercial spaces funded the meeting spaces above.

The front elevation faces south onto Main Street (photos 1 and 2). The asymmetrical composition is divided vertically into four major sections. The first floor has a series of storefronts extending across it. A continuous I-beam lintel caps all the storefronts. The east bay houses a chamfered corner entry with free-standing limestone pier laid up in rock faced ashlar with dressed stone capital and necking. The rest of this corner storefront was remodeled probably in about 1955, with a permastone-style base to the metal-edged plate glass windows. Metal awnings are from about the same time period and the transom area was panned over with vertical channeled metal siding. Stone pilaster-piers dividing the shop areas remain intact. The next shop front to the west has a central recessed entry flanked by display windows with low kick panels. This division may be similar to the original configuration. Horizontal corrugated sheet metal hides the transom areas and metal awnings shade the windows. Another stone pilaster separates a narrow storefront to the west. This westernmost storefront appears to be entirely intact. It has wooden paneled kick plates, plate glass windows, and a wood-mullioned three light transom. The metal awning was likely added in about 1950 or so. Just to the west of this last storefront is a wide, round arched opening leading to two recessed doorways. Rock faced pilasters, similar to the larger ones dividing the storefronts, frame the rock faced arch with dressed stone imposts. False machicolations forming a corbel table are carried above the arch. An old (c.1950?) metal box neon sign hangs above the arch, signifying that this is the Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star lodge entrance. Recessed under the arch are two doorways, one is parallel to the arch and leads to stairs to the lodge area. The other has single light double leaf wooden doors set on the diagonal, leading to the narrow western store space. This odd doorway configuration appears to be original if not early to the building's history.

The second floor is uniform across the south elevation: paired double hung windows divided by a mullion are placed two pair to each section, divided by a brick pilaster strip. The window sash are recent replacement, vinyl-clad double hung units. A narrow continuous rock faced stone sill runs under all windows, a similar but wider continuous lintel caps the windows. The four



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sections of the second floor are framed by pilasters with rock faced bases and dressed stone capitals.

The third level divides the elevation into three sections, two matching center sections flanked by differing tower sections, divided by strip pilasters continued from below. The center sections house two paired Diocletian windows. The huge round arches with rock faced voussoirs spring from linked sills. The sash have four vertical lights. The west tower has two oculus windows with stone surrounds. Five horizontal recessed brick courses span this section link the two windows. The eastern section has stone tablet just above the rock faced lintels of the second floor windows, with wide raised letters reading "MASONIC TEMPLE". Above this runs an arcade of six small round arched windows with a continuous sill. The arches are linked in two sets of three, and each opening has a small one-over-one double hung sash in it. Each of the sections of the building has a corbel work, terminating flush with the plane of the pilaster strips (conversely, one could describe the window areas on the first and second floors as being recessed panels defined by flush pilasters). The center section of the building, with the four Diocletian windows, has its own sheet metal entablature with dentil molding. The flanking sections have higher brick walls, with the western section having a flat parapeted roof above the oculi. The eastern section is capped by the same entablature, but additionally it has a slate-clad, pyramidal roof. The higher brick walls and roof cause the corner to read as a tower, though it fact its interior houses no greater space.

The east elevation faces Monroe Street (photos 1 and 3). The architect made this elevation less formal, but not without significant detail. The first floor has the chamfered entry at the south corner and a solitary doorway toward the north end. The door is not original but the rock faced lintel is. Just to the north of this, under the oriel window, is an area of brick infill. The steel or iron lintel over this area and stone sill below indicate that a storefront was probably located here. The second floor is divided into two areas, the corner tower section, and a paneled wall area with two oriels. The front façade treatment wraps around to this side, with only room for a single pair of windows on the second floor and four individual small round arched windows above. The northern area has a pilasters and corbel work defining brick panels. Openings from south to north are single window with stone lintel, oriel window, single window, oriel window. The oriels are sheet metal clad, with single diagonal windows and paired front windows. A simple metal cornice caps the parapet.

The west elevation is functionally treated; it has no stylistic or formal detailing or composition (photos 4 and 5). There are no ground floor openings. From this side, the full three story height of the building is evident, since there are three second story windows, one taller sash toward the south probably lights the stairwell to the lodge space. These sash are rectangular but set within a

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double coursed segmental arch. The third floor has three double hung windows; two are in line with the last two of the second floor and the third one is under a section where the roof line cuts away. There is a louvered vent with arched opening at the very top of the wall, with a chimney beside it. A roof is actual nearly flush to the parapet line in this section, to accommodate the large interior spaces.

The north elevation is the rear wall of the building (photo 4). Openings are placed with function in mind, and all are segmental arched like those of the west side. There are two entrances on the west half of the elevation, and two windows, each with wooden awnings. At some point, the hardware store owners added a wooden shed to the east 1/3 of the rear wall, likely to house additional supplies. Just beside the west edge of the shed, a brick pier rises to the roof line. Beside it is a high parapet section that breaks for the gutter of the roof of the eastern 1/3 of the building. The second floor has one window centered in the eastern 1/3 of the wall, then, west of the pier, two similar tall windows. Two windows are grouped in the next section, then a solitary window aligns with a first floor window toward the corner. The third floor has two windows roughly centered in the western 2/3 of the building. The roof line has a two pitch shed roof, with a short shed angle visible from this side. The pier and parapet section abutting the angled shed likely form the end of a full masonry interior dividing wall.

The ground floor commercial spaces of the building generally retain their historic appearance. High ceilings clad in pressed metal, cast iron columns, and wood floors are all intact. Most of the display cases and racks were installed in more recent decades. Openings in the demising masonry wall between formerly separate spaces were made to accommodate the hardware store usage.

The upper floor spaces were more highly finished than the first floor spaces. A cast iron staircase leads up to the lodge rooms (photo 7). Turning right or east from the top of the stairs leads one along a hallway with a series of rooms. On the right (south) side of the hall are the coat room and lodge pool room; a living room, bedroom, dining room and kitchen for an apartment; and at the southeast corner, the lodge's kitchen area (described further below). The north side of the hall has a bathroom and closet. Finishes in the apartment rooms are original to the building, including doors, surrounds, and baseboards. Formerly, these rooms were the offices of Drs. Charles and Eva Kennedy, until 1930, when the lodge turned them into an apartment.

From the head of the stairs, the door to the main lodge area of the building is straight ahead, filling the north half of the second floor. The ceremonial rooms retain their original plan, woodwork, and volume. The lodge paneled the walls with prefinished vertical groove hardboard

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sheets at some point in the recent past and all ceilings are suspended grid with lay in fluorescent fixtures. The door and window moldings are original, composed of stained, beaded edged boards with simple cornice caps at the top. Doors have two tall panels over two short ones. The main lodge space has a grand feeling, with its semi-circular balcony level encircling the north half of the space (photos 11 and 12). The balcony staircase, flanked by freestanding wooden Ionic columns, has original turned balusters and handrail. The several previously described third floor windows on the west and north elevations light the balcony area. The north and south walls of the room are arranged for lodge ceremonies, the center of each side has a small raised stage. The high-backed ceremonial chairs and podiums appear to date to the time of the building. The center of the room also has a small raised platform with a podium. Floors are carpeted.

The dining hall across the east portion of the second floor has similar finishes to the lodge room (photo 10). This room has the two bay windows, and wooden floors. The kitchen area has a cupboard island, installed in about 1950-60 and newer appliances (photo 9). Doors and window surrounds are original.

**Section 8 – Statement of Significance**

The Camden Masonic Lodge, 1902, meets Criterion C because it is one of the finest examples of Romanesque Revival architecture in Carroll County. Locally, in Camden, it is the largest historic structure and is the signature building in downtown. The Camden Lodge meets Criterion A for its locally significant role in the social history of Camden.

**Architecture**

Romanesque Revival, as other styles had, sprang from the attempts of 19<sup>th</sup> century American architects to find fittingly solid looking exteriors for their increasingly specialized buildings. Henry Hobson Richardson is often credited with introducing the style for both commercial and governmental buildings. However, decades before Richardson's breakthroughs of the 1880s, German-trained architects were importing the latest "round-arched style" from their academies back home. Thomas Teft was also designing Romanesque Revival landmarks such as his Cannelton Cotton Mills (1851) before the Civil War. With Richardson's landmarks such the Allegheny County Courthouse (1884), however, the Romanesque Revival style became widely accepted for courthouses, town halls, and commercial blocks. It remained so long after Richardson's death in 1888. Indiana county commissioners ordered several new courthouses in the style in the 1890s, for example. Many regional and local architects' works lacked the ancient strength of Richardson's designs, however, the best Romanesque Revival buildings always share



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basic qualities: picturesque massing, masonry walls, emphasis on material textures, towers, oriels, or other "castellated" elements, and emphatic round arches.

The Camden Lodge has the key elements of the style. Architects C.S. Krutch and Company used a tower with lofty hip roof to highlight the street corner site. The tower, with its arcade of stone-headed round arched windows, brick corbel table, and massive roof give the building a strong Romanesque Revival feeling. The run of large, rock-faced stone arched Diocletian windows and oculus windows along the upper floor of the rest of the building are also in keeping with the style. The special entry for the stairway to the lodge space (photo 5, left) is a veritable dictionary of pre-Gothic architecture: a rock-faced, round arch opening, false machicolations, impost moldings and massive piers. Overall, the architect used Romanesque Revival elements of the era, including stringcourses of rock-faced stone and simple pilaster forms and use of brick paneling / corbelling. Krutch and Company's design shows great interest in polychromy with its contrast of rough stone and geometric brick work, perhaps a passing influence of the Victorian Gothic style.

The lodge is probably the best developed example of the Victorian-era Romanesque Revival style in Carroll County. The Carroll County Interim Report, 1982, recorded all the 19<sup>th</sup> century resources in the county to the extent possible. Delphi, the county seat, developed earlier than Camden and its square is predominantly lined with Italianate commercial blocks. A handful of stores exhibit some Romanesque traits: corbelled cornices, or oriel bays. Several 19<sup>th</sup> century school buildings in the Interim Report (at least some of which are now gone) have Romanesque arched entryways and other features of the style. No others have the full Romanesque Revival feeling of the Camden Lodge. Certainly in Camden, the lodge is absolutely one of a kind.

#### Masonic Lodges

Masonry likely originated as part of the system of craft guilds that began during the Middle Ages in Europe. Guilds of masons controlled membership and oversaw training of skilled stoneworkers. "Free" masons were not bound by servitude and thus could travel from town to town during the cathedral building period. As the great building campaigns of the churches wore down, stone working guilds began to accept patrons as members. Eventually, the tools of the trade became symbolic for the Christian-based ideals the Masons hoped to inculcate to its members through various private ceremonies. It was this form of social masonry that reached America in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, shortly after its formal recognition in London. It is the largest of the fraternal orders, and the oldest to survive to the present day. Masonry is a ritualistic, fraternal, membership-based organization that appealed primarily to Protestant church goers. Members

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can receive assistance from the lodge; masonry has a benevolent aspect as well. Lodges were a significant part of life in towns small and large in the United States. Membership guaranteed entertainment, social interaction, and often, business ties that could further a career.

Masonry began in Indiana with the founding of a lodge in Vincennes in 1809. Some 270 lodges existed in Indiana by the time of the Civil War. Masonry followed the trail of settlement along the Wabash Valley. Several Lafayette citizens formed a lodge in 1830, while the oldest existing lodge in town began in 1852. Likewise, Delphi's main lodge can trace its lineage to 1842, during the first years of operation for the Wabash and Erie Canal. Camden, platted in 1834, was located on a main road to Logansport but developed slowly until the Logansport, Crawfordsville, and Southwestern Railroad laid tracks beside the town in the 1850s. As the town's population expanded, the interest in social institutions did likewise. A group of interested men received dispensation to form a lodge in Camden on July 11, 1856. The Mount Zion Lodge #211, as they named it, held its first meeting just under a year later on July 8, 1857.

The lodge rented space in various buildings until 1901. In that year, the Grand Lodge of Indiana ruled that all lodges must own or control their own meeting hall. On February 5, 1901, the Camden Lodge selected a committee consisting of members E.C. Rice, J.W. Leslie, and B.F. Thomas and the group made plans to buy the current site (lot #12 in the original plat). Seven days later, the lodge made a downpayment of \$800.00 to the owner of lot #12. The lodge formed a fund raising committee, including members U.E. Tesh, Phillip Ray, and B.F. Thomas. The total cost would be \$20,000.00, and construction was secured with a \$10,000.00 note from City National Bank of Logansport on June 14, 1901. The lodge hired C.S. Krutch and Company of Logansport to design the structure.

On November 6, 1902, a crowd, conservatively estimated at 1000 persons, gathered on Main Street in front of the newly completed lodge to dedicate the building. A special train from Logansport arrived with a delegation of about 250 members of the Elk's band. A huge parade marched from the depot, located at the east end of Camden to the Masonic Temple at the west end of Main Street.

As with nearly all small town lodges, rental of ground floor commercial and occasional second floor office space supported the ongoing activities of the lodge rooms on the second floor. At the time of dedication, U.E. Tesh housed his drug store at the east end section of the first floor, while Nelson and Worley's Department Store filled the rest of the first floor. On the second floor, Miss Birdie Penn's Millinery Store, Trustee Jesse Martin and Doctors B.O. White and W.A. Herman occupied four office-sized rooms.

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Today, a century later, the lodge remains the grandest commercial / social hall building in Camden. It is both a physical and cultural landmark in its community.

**Section 9 – Bibliography**

Carroll County Auditor's Office. Auditor's Record Book #96, page 561.

*Dedication Program of the Mount Zion Lodge #211 Temple Building*, November 6, 1902.  
(unknown printer)

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. *Carroll County Interim Report*. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1981.

McCain, Jesse M. "Complete History of the Mt. Zion Lodge #211." Unpublished manuscript in the possession of the lodge, c.1957.

Mayhill, Dora Thomas. *Carroll County, Indiana: Postal History, Rural Settlement, Towns, Development of Modes of Travel, Townships*. Knightstown, IN: Banner Publishing Co., 1954.

Mount Zion Lodge #211, Secretarial Record Books, 1857, 1891, 1901, 1902, and 1957-2002.

**Section 10 – Geographical Data, Verbal Boundary Description**

Lot 12 in the Original Plat of the Town of Camden, Carroll County, Indiana.

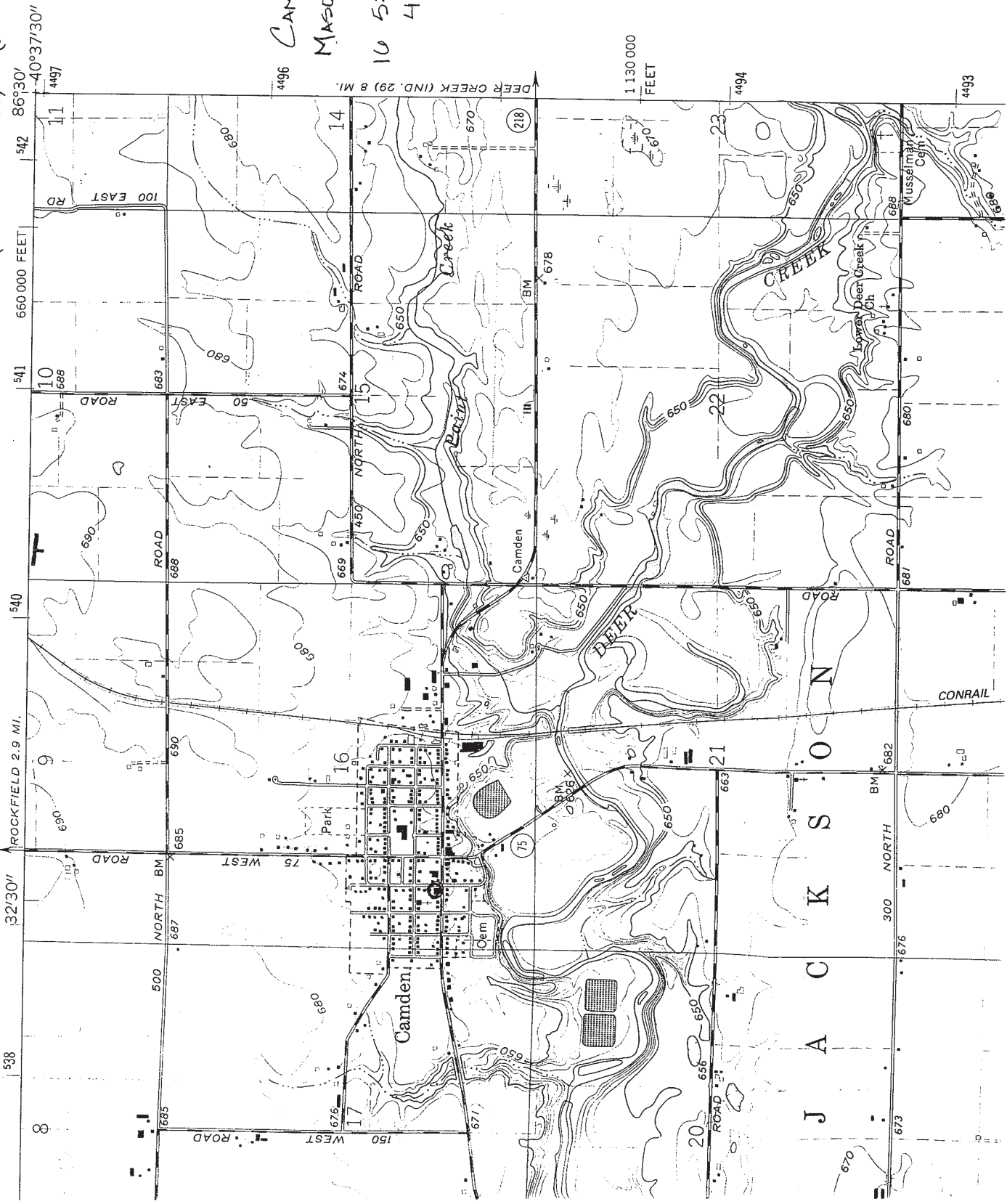
**Boundary Justification**

This is the historic property boundary.

JA  
NSERVATION  
NA

FLORA QUADRANGLE  
INDIANA - CARROLL CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(3765 III NW  
CLYMER)



CAMDEN  
MASONIC TEMPLE  
10 538860  
4495210

538 32°30' ROCKFIELD 2.9 MI. 540 541 542 86°30' 40°37'30" 4497

1:113,000  
FEET

4493

J A C K S O N