

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 Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 312 Main Street

NA

not for publication

city or town Milan

NA

vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Ripley code 137 zip code 47031

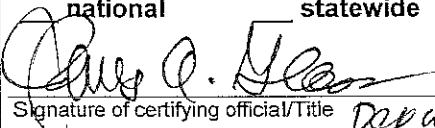
### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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



10/26/2012

Signature of certifying official/Title

Deputy SHPO

Date

Indiana Div. of Historic Preservation and Archaeology  
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

Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31  
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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	<b>Total</b>

**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.)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

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INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION:  
manufacturing facility

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HEALTH CARE: medical business/office

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

SOCIAL: meeting hall

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**7. Description**

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

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque Revival

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LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

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**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

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walls: BRICK, STONE

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roof: ASPHALT

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other: WOOD, ASPHALT

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## Narrative Description

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### Summary Paragraph

Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 is located at 312 Main Street in Milan, Ripley County, Indiana. Completed in 1900, the building reflects a combination of modest Romanesque Revival stylistic elements and Queen Anne. The exterior brick walls and limestone detailing, elliptical- and round-arched openings, steeply-pitched gabled roof, and pyramidal tower are prominent Romanesque Revival features. Queen Anne elements include colored and stained glass windows and decorative wood detailing in the gables. An ornate raked ceiling located within the Lodge Hall emphasizes the exceptional craftsmanship and design of its builders. Many of the interior furnishings are original including the detailed, carved chairs within the Lodge Hall. Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 is the oldest surviving Masonic Lodge building in Ripley County designed not only to serve as a permanent Masonic Lodge meeting hall, but also to provide additional space for event functions and use by the local community. In addition, it is among only a few community landmark buildings surviving in the county constructed in the Romanesque Revival style. Despite minimal non-historic alterations, Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 retains a substantial degree of its architectural integrity.

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### Description

Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 sits at the southwest corner of the intersection of North Main Street and West Wood Street in Franklin Township, Ripley County, Indiana. The building is situated at the northeast corner of a primarily grassed lot and fronts North Main Street to the east. The Milan Masonic Lodge is situated within a historically residential and commercial area just north of the railroad. A cement walkway extends from the sidewalk to two limestone steps leading to the principal entryway on the east elevation. The Lodge is an imposing two-story, rectangular plan, brick (American Bond) building resting on a low, coursed fieldstone foundation. Its design reflects an emphasis on the vertical. The Lodge features an asphalt-shingled, H-shaped roof. The westernmost and easternmost portions feature north and south facing gables, while the spine of the central section runs west to east. The front façade features a centrally-located, integrated, pyramidal-roofed tower. The roof is steeply pitched with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter ends. Three of the four north and south facing gables feature unique decorative wood detailing with tile pieces set in mortar (Photo #8). Character-defining exterior features of the Milan Masonic Lodge include a symmetrical façade with central pyramidal tower, elliptical- and round-arched windows, round-arched doorways, smooth limestone detailing, brick pilasters with a limestone-capped, buttress-like treatment at the bottom separating individual bays, and decorative stained glass.

The façade (east elevation) (Photos #1 and #2) features a side-gabled roof with a centered, integrated tower extending from the roof. The facade is three bays with a central entry and a window on either side on the first floor. Full-length brick pilasters separate each bay. The bottom portions of the pilasters rise slightly higher than the top of the first floor window openings. At the top of the base of the pilasters, a smooth limestone cap provides additional decorative detailing and color to the building. Unless otherwise stated, these pilasters are located on each elevation and separate all bays. The central bay of the façade features a brick, round-arched opening with wooden double entry doors (Photo #6) and round-arched stained glass window transom above. The doors feature two raised horizontal panels below a larger panel which contains a wide diagonal board with smaller, beveled diagonal wooden strips placed within the remainder of the upper panel. Directly above the door, a unique metal sign extends from the brick wall and features three, round signs placed one above the other (Photo #7). The top sign reflects the square and compass symbol of the Freemasons, while the symbol on the bottom sign reflects that of the Order of the Eastern Star. There is no image depicted on the middle sign. Above the metal sign, a smooth, rectangular limestone plaque is inset in the brick wall. There is no engraving within the limestone. A large, round stained glass window is situated directly above the limestone plaque. The star-shaped emblem of the Order of the Eastern Star is detailed in the stained glass. The lower half of the round window opening is brick arched, while the upper half is a limestone arch. Above the circular window, the brick pilasters on either side of the central bay are joined, creating a corbelled brick arch above the entire central bay. In doing so, it creates the impression that the central entry bay projects from the main body of the building. Adding additional emphasis to the central bay is the integrated tower. The uppermost section of the tower is sheathed to match the roof sheathing. It features a wooden, semi-circular vent and white dentils. The tower is capped by a pyramidal roof with a small, centered gable. The gable features modest wood detailing.

The window bays on the first floor of the façade (east elevation) feature tall and narrow elliptical window openings, which contribute to the vertical emphasis of the building's design. The windows are one-over-one, double-hung wood sash with a smooth limestone sill. A fixed transom window is situated directly above each window followed by a brick relieving arch. The transom windows include a single fixed pane surrounded by smaller panes of colored glass on either side and above.

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The top of the transom window conforms to the shape of the relieving arch. Windows on the second floor of the façade are flat, one-over-one fixed-sash windows with limestone sills. At the same height of the limestone sills on the second story, a narrow limestone belt course extends across the façade. Breaks in the belt course occur at the pilasters. A wider limestone course, also broken by the pilasters, is situated above the upper-story windows below the eaves. Both limestone courses are found on all elevations with the exception of the rear (west elevation).

The south elevation (Photo #2) features a south-facing gable at either end. Unlike the other gables of the building, the west gable of the south elevation features a single, fixed window with a modest decorative wood course and brackets below (Photo #3). The west gable matches those on the north elevation with decorative wood detailing and tile pieces set in mortar (Photo #8). The south elevation consists of five bays separated by brick pilasters. The five windows on the first floor are identical to the first-floor windows on the front façade. Windows on the west and east ends of the second story are one-over-one, double-hung wood sash each with a semi-round transom window. The second and third windows (from west to east) on the second floor are flat, one-over-one double-hung sash, matching those of the front façade. The fourth window opening contains a fire escape hatch and plywood. The limestone belt courses found on the front façade are also featured on the south elevation. The wider belt course forms the lintels of the second floor windows. It creates a round arch with keystone over the windows within the south-facing gables. Above the east and west windows, the pilasters form a round corbelled brick arch extending into the gables, similar to the brick arch above the entryway on the front façade. There are no doors located on the south elevation. A metal fire-escape tube extends from the fourth window of the second floor in a westerly direction across the elevation until reaching ground-level.

The rear (west) elevation (Photos #3 and #4) is two bays wide with a small, c. 1950, one-story shed addition extending from the left (north) bay and resting on a concrete block foundation. The shed addition features an asphalt-shingled roof with exposed rafter ends and a small, rectangular window opening on the south elevation. The opening is presently covered with plywood. The opposite window opening on the north side of the addition is a six-light window within a wood frame, hinged on the top. The right (south) bay of the west elevation contains a tall and narrow wood-paneled door with plain trim. It appears that a transom once occupied the space above the door, which is presently filled in with a single wood board. A smooth limestone header is located above the door. Two limestone steps lead to the door. The two bays of the second story contain one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows with smooth limestone sills and headers. Unlike the other elevations of the building, the rear (west) elevation bays are not separated by a brick pilaster. Instead, a narrow, exterior brick chimney is centered on the elevation and extends through the slope of the roof. A small, asphalt-shingled gable is centered near the top of the roof slope. A half-round, three-light window is located within the pedimented gable. At ground level, a modern air-conditioning unit is located between the addition and the door. The unit is surrounded by a chain-link fence that also encloses the door. A white-painted metal downspout is located along the north corner pilaster of the west elevation.

The north elevation (Photo #5) is identical to that of the south; however, the fourth bay (east to west) on the first floor features an entry door as opposed to a window. In addition, the first floor window of the fifth bay is a fixed, elliptical-arched window with limestone sill. The window matches the transom windows above the remaining first floor windows with colored glass panes on the sides and top. Unique to this elevation, is a single window (third bay) that reflects the building's historic window design. The pane of the lower sash of this window opening is removed, having been replaced with plywood. The upper sash, however is fixed and features a single light surrounded on each side by four colored glass panes. This is the only such sash surviving on the building. However, the others, which were removed and replaced with the present sash, are stored within the building. The door on the north elevation is accessed via three limestone steps leading from a narrow concrete sidewalk that runs adjacent to the building on the north. The door is a modern replacement set into the brick opening. It appears that the door was once either wider than its replacement or flanked by sidelights with a transom directly above the door where the number "312" is currently located. Above the door opening is a large, semi-round, single-pane transom window with a brick, round-arched header.

The interior space of the Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 is in exceptional condition and the historic design has remained substantially intact. Unless otherwise specified, interior doors and windows feature flat molding with a fluted center section and corner blocks. Walls are plastered and painted. Wood flooring is tongue-and-groove planks. Ceilings are approximately 12 to 14 feet high on both floors, with the exception of the Masonic Hall on the second-floor which features an ornate raking ceiling.

A small entrance lobby (Photo #9), almost triangular in shape, is accessed via the principal entry doors on the east. The interior sides of the entry doors are virtually the reverse of the exterior; however, the boards are painted light brown with very faint staining. The door opening features a flat, fluted trim with corner blocks and is stained. A narrow, stained

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transom bar separates the entry door and rounded, stained glass transom window above. A similar stained, trim surrounds the transom window; however, the trim is slightly darker than that of the door. Noteworthy is the hardware that survives. It includes an ornate wrought iron vertical rim lock with skeleton key and a secondary wrought iron lock with chain located at the top of the right door. In addition to the main entry doors, two interior doors lead from the lobby to a cafeteria to the south and a kitchen to the north. Both doors are stained and feature a large, fixed light with paneled apron. A single-light transom is located above each door. A flat, fluted trim with corner blocks surrounds each door opening (including transom). The number "2" is painted on the glass of the transom on the south wall.

The kitchen (Photos # 12 and #13) is situated in the northeast corner of the building. Two windows are located on the north elevation and one on the east. The windows, including the colored glass transom above each, reach the height of the ceiling. The kitchen flooring is laminate. In addition to the two windows, the north elevation includes an electrical box, kitchen appliances, and a large historic iron stove and oven. The east wall contains only the one window. A narrow corner wall at the southeast corner of the room separates the kitchen from the lobby. The door leading to the lobby is painted rather than stained and features the same trim as the lobby. A modern refrigerator is located against the south wall. A wide cased opening is located on the south wall and leads to the cafeteria. A thin curtain separates the two rooms. The trim surrounding the opening is identical to all other interior doors and is painted cream to match the door leading to the lobby. A unique feature to the kitchen is the original stained wood cabinetry and brass hardware attached to the west wall. The cabinetry includes a laminate counter with cupboards below and a large hutch above providing additional storage space. The cabinetry is in excellent condition and reflects aspects of the original design and workmanship of the building.

The Lodge cafeteria (Photos #10 and #11) is accessed from the lobby or through the wide door opening on the south wall of the kitchen. The cafeteria is a large, open space extending much of the length of the south half of the building. The cafeteria is irregularly-shaped and features stained hardwood, tongue-and-groove flooring, modest base boards, and white painted plaster walls. The central portion of the ceiling is lower than rest of the room.<sup>1</sup> Three round metal posts extend from the floor to the ceiling, providing additional load-bearing support. An exposed duct system runs below the ceiling in an east-west direction near the north end of the room. Fluorescent lighting hangs from the ceiling as well. Long cafeteria-style tables and chairs are organized throughout the room. The cafeteria contains five, full-length windows: one on the east wall and four on the south. The interior window trim is identical to the kitchen windows. The northeast corner wall contains the door leading to the lobby. As in the kitchen, the door, transom, and trim are painted rather than stained. The door features a black porcelain door knob. The wall separating the cafeteria from the west end of the kitchen features a rectangular opening that serves as a pass-through into the kitchen. The opening acts as an ordering window in which food and drink can be easily passed from the kitchen to the cafeteria. The opening has a modest trim. The north elevation of the cafeteria contains two doors: one leads to the women's bathroom, the other leads to a side entrance lobby and stairwell. The door leading to the women's restroom is a modern replacement door with plain trim. The door leading to the side entrance lobby appears to be original and features four panels and the same detailed trim as seen in the main lobby and kitchen. Here, the trim is painted, rather than stained. The west elevation of the cafeteria contains a horizontal coatrack, a square wood louvered ventilation opening, and a door featuring five horizontal panels and painted, plain trim. The door leads to the furnace and storage room that served as a dental office during the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The storage and furnace room is located west of the cafeteria (Photo #14). The space is primarily unfinished with portions of the flooring being hardwood and others concrete. Walls are unfinished plaster over brick with the exception of the east interior wall which is exposed tongue-and-groove. The ceiling is partially plastered with areas of exposed lath. Air conditioning, heating, and mechanical equipment occupy the center of the space. A four-paneled door leading to the exterior of the building is located on the west wall directly opposite the cafeteria door. Above the door is a transom window covered with plywood. The decorative trim seen elsewhere in the building surrounds this door. On the north wall of the room, a shorter door leads to a storage closet under a stairwell. The closet features brick walls and houses the building's original windows of red-colored textured glass. The four-paneled door is stained and features the same decorative stained trim with corner blocks. Adjacent to this door on the west wall is another door leading to the one-story rear addition. This a modest door with two vertical panels and no trim.

The rear addition room (Photo #15) features brick walls, concrete floor, and wood board shed roof. A rectangular-shaped casement window is located on the north and south walls. The window on the south is covered in plywood. The window on the north features six-lights, and is hinged at the top.

<sup>1</sup>The difference in ceiling height appears to be indicated on the original floor plans (see Continuation Pages) suggesting that its intentional design is likely structural.

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The side entrance hall is accessed via the door on the north wall of the cafeteria. The hall is narrow and contains a single door leading to a men's restroom on the east and another door leading to the exterior of the building on the north. An enclosed, quarter-turn with landing stairwell is located west of the hall (Photo #27). The trim surrounding the door to the cafeteria is stained, and is the traditional trim seen throughout the building. The men's restroom door is four-paneled and stained and features a stained, plain trim. Lastly, the doorway leading to the exterior features a modern door replacement inset into an opening that formerly contained a larger door. A round-arched transom window with decorative, stained glass is located above the original door opening (Photo #16). The trim surrounding the door and the transom window is similar to that of the main entrance on the east elevation.

The stairwell leads westward to a small landing then southward to the second-floor. The stairwell is carpeted and features a single wood railing along the south wall and a round-arched colored glass window with curtain on the north wall. Past the landing, a one-over-one window with curtain is located within the stairwell. At the top of the stairs, an intact, paneled and stained door with stained trim leads to the second floor. The hardware on the door (Photo #25) is impressive with intricate wrought iron knob, lock set, and hinge.

The first room located at the top of the stairwell is the "Tiler Room" (Photo #23). Original hardwood floors are covered in red carpeting. Two windows are located within the Tiler Room: one on the west elevation, the other on the south. Both windows feature the traditional stained trim with corner blocks and stained sill. The window on the south wall features the round-arched colored glass window transom. A single door is located on the north wall leading to the Preparation Room and another is located on the east wall leading to a small closet space. Both doors are 4-paneled and the door, trim, and hardware match that of the door leading to the Tiler Room from the stairwell. In addition to the door on the east wall, a wider opening (with no door) leads to a small hallway which provides access to the attic on the left (north) and the Lodge Hall to the east. The trim surrounding the opening is stained and matches the trim in the rest of the building.

The Preparation Room (Photo #26), situated north of the Tiler's Room, is a narrow, rectangular space with plaster-over-masonry walls and plaster ceiling. Like the room before, the original hardwood floors are carpeted and a stained base board with modest molding surrounds the space. Along the north, east, and west walls metal hooks are used for hanging of clothing. The south wall contains the single door leading from the Tiler's Room and features the same detailing of that room. At the north end of the east wall, another door leads to the Lodge Hall.

The Lodge Hall (Photos #17 and #18) is the largest and most ornate room in the Masonic Lodge. The walls are plaster-over-masonry and the hardwood floors are covered in carpeting. A wide, stained wood base board surrounds the room. The ceiling (Photos #19 and #20) of the room is one of the most ornate and unique features of the building. The ceiling is raked and covered with car siding, a type of board featuring a decorative "V" shape to the groove. Three sets of exposed wood ribs appear to support the ceiling. The ribs run north-south and extend into the walls adding to the decorative detailing of the room. The ribs are stained and feature decorative molding. A stained, wood board strip featuring the same molding as the building's door trim, runs east to west along the ceiling crest. At its junctures with the three sets of ribs, decorative square blocks marry the two features and stained wood detailing extends from the ceiling. The most intricate of these elements is located at the center of the ceiling and features decorative square blocks and a dropped pendant (Photo #20). The remaining two junctures feature ceiling fans. In addition to the ornate ceiling, the windows in the Lodge Hall provide additional beauty and majesty to the room. The east wall features two, one-over-one windows with stained sills and the decorative trim with corner blocks as seen elsewhere in the building. Centered on the wall is a circular, stained glass window featuring a star with Seeing Eye (Photo #21), the emblem of the Order of the Eastern Star. The trim surrounding the stained glass window is stained. The north and south elevations feature four window openings each. The windows are as described on the exterior elevations; however, the interior trim and sills are stained with the trim detailing matching that of the others throughout the building. The colored glass transoms above the windows at the east end of the north and south walls provide an intimate and unique light array within the room. One of the four window openings on the south wall has been removed and replaced with a two-door, metal fire escape hatch painted red that leads to the metal escape tunnel to ground-level on the exterior of the building. All windows are curtained. Surrounding the north, south, and east walls, cushioned wood chairs and benches sit upon a carpeted, raised step. Along the east wall, the raised step ascends two more steps to an elevated platform, or altar used for the seating of high officials, a wood podium, and ballot box. Two of three wood chairs sitting on the platform are incredibly ornate.

Three doors are located at the west end of the room (Photos #18 and #19): the first (from south to north) leads from the small hallway between the Tiler's Room and the Lodge Hall, the second from the Preparation Room, and the third leads to a small closet. The three doors are stained and feature the same trim with corner blocks as the majority of the building's doors. Unlike the other doors of the Lodge, however, the trim of the first two doors rests on plinth blocks. In addition, the first two doors in the Lodge Hall contain five panels, rather than the traditional four-paneled doors. The fifth panel of these

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doors is horizontal with two vertical panels above and an apron of two vertical panels below. The third door begins at the base of the step along the wall rather than floor level. As such, this door appears to be taller than the other two. In between the first two doors, a single wood chair sits atop a smaller platform, two steps high. Near the center of the room is situated another podium on a small, cushioned step that houses the Lodge Bible.

The closet, located through the northwest door of the Lodge Hall is a small, rectangular space containing a one-over-one window with rounded, colored glass window transom above (Photo #24). The walls and ceiling are plaster. This room is used for storage.

The attic is accessed via a narrow, enclosed stairwell located at the north end of the small hallway between the Tiler Room and the Lodge Hall. The stairs are unfinished wood and the walls within the stairwell are unfinished bead board. The attic space directly above Lodge Hall and east of the stairs shows the frame of the building, as well as that of the false ceiling of Lodge Hall. West of the stairwell, a small storage area features tongue-and-groove walls and ceiling, and an unfinished hardwood floor. A four-paneled door with plain trim at the south end of the storage area leads to a smaller closet space located within one of the gables on the south. The room contains exposed brick on the south with a small, square fixed window. The gable rafters are exposed within this room.

In February of 2012, members of the Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 discovered the original 1899 construction drawings of the Lodge No. 31 (see continuation sheets). The drawings confirm a substantial degree of the original floor plan, design, and workmanship that has survived. Obvious differences between the construction plans and what survives today include a slate roof verse the present-day asphalt shingles; a round chimney with long metal flue was planned for the north, south, and west elevations; and the front entry door opened into a single open space rather than the present-day triangular entry hall. The drawings do not indicate the presence of a kitchen, bathrooms, or the rooms to the rear of the first floor utilized as a dentist office. The original drawings also indicate access to the stairwell leading to the second floor was only possible through the side entrance of the building. Lastly, a door leading directly from the stairwell to the preparation room was initially planned for the Lodge. Unknown is whether these plans were carried out exactly as drawn, or if the present-day differences were completed during the original construction. What is evident from the drawings and what survives today is that a substantial degree of the planned design, including but not limited to the decorative stained glass detailing, window fenestration, entry door detailing, raised step and altars within the Lodge Hall, and the beautifully preserved arched false ceiling have survived for over one hundred years.

As is common among century-old buildings, alterations and additions to the Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 were necessary. As evidenced in the construction drawings, the first floor was designed as a single, large open space with side entrance hall leading to the stairwell. Both the hall, and a small closet beneath the stairwell at the southeast corner of the first floor remain unchanged. The kitchen, bathrooms, front entry hall, and rear storage room were added during the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>2</sup> It is likely that these additions occurred by 1902 when it is recorded that the rear storage room was utilized as a dentist office. At some point during the mid-20th century the small one-story, rear shed addition was constructed. A window on the second floor of the south elevation was removed during the mid-20th century and replaced with a metal fire escape hatch and plywood, and the metal fire escape slide was installed to the exterior. Central heating and air, including a new gas furnace and ductwork, was installed approximately 20 years ago. No substantial alterations occurred as a result of this installation. The ductwork is visible only within the cafeteria. Approximately 25 years ago, the red carpeting was laid over the hardwood floors within the stairwell and second floor. The kitchen was remodeled approximately five years ago and included the installation of a counter in the middle of the room and a sink. The wood cabinetry located within the kitchen is original to the building.<sup>3</sup>

Probably the most substantial loss of historic fabric occurred c.2000 with the replacement of the majority of the building's windows. While the fixed, elliptical-arched colored glass transom windows remain, the lower sashes were replaced with one-over-one windows. The original window sash featured colored glass in the upper sash and reddish-colored textured glass in the lower sash. Despite their removal, these windows survive and are presently stored within the Lodge. The first-floor window of the third bay (from east to west) on the north elevation is the only window that retains the colored glass upper sash. Also along the north elevation, the side entry door is a modern replacement set into the brick opening. It is likely that this alteration occurred contemporaneously with that of the window replacement. Despite the minor alterations, the vast majority of the building retains its historic materials, workmanship, design, and character, as well as its historic interior furnishings.

<sup>2</sup> William Ward. Interview with author. November 21, 2011.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

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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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1900-1962

**Significant Dates**

1900

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

H.C. Griffith

**Criteria Considerations N/A**

(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.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The Period of Significance of Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 begins with its construction in 1900 and extends to 1962 at the 50-year marker due to its continued use as an active Masonic Lodge meeting hall.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

Not Applicable



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### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Completed in 1900, the Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 is eligible under Criterion A for its association with social history as a permanent meeting hall for the local Free Mason chapter. Today, it is the oldest, continuously active Masonic Lodge charter in Ripley County. The Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 building has continuously served as the principal meeting hall for the Masonic chapter. Furthermore, Milan Lodge No. 31 is believed to be the oldest building surviving in Ripley County erected for the purpose of serving as a permanent Lodge Hall for a Masonic chapter and has remained used as such to present day. Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 is also eligible under Criterion C for architecture as an excellent example of modest late-19th to early-20th century Romanesque Revival and Queen Anne-style design, craftsmanship, and construction. The building is one of only two Romanesque Revival structures in Milan. In addition, the Lodge Hall is one of only six identified Romanesque Revival community landmark buildings surviving in Ripley County, all of which are public or religious architecture. The combined use of Queen Anne-style elements featured on the Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 meeting hall is unique in that the style occurred primarily on residential architecture in Ripley County while Romanesque Revival was confined to public and religious buildings. The building's construction, design, and moderate, high-style elements are reminiscent of a period of substantial growth and prosperity in Milan, as well as the strength of Milan's Masonic chapter. The building retains a substantial degree of its historic integrity and continues to be recognized as an important community landmark in not only Milan, but Franklin Township and Ripley County as well.

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

Chartered May 26, 1846, Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 had its beginnings as the Moores Hill Lodge No. 31 located approximately 2.4 miles southeast of Milan in Dearborn County. As a result of the growth of the new town of Milan, the Moores Hill Lodge relocated to Milan in 1850 and was renamed Milan Lodge No. 31. Since its construction in 1900, the Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 building has continuously served as the principal meeting hall for the Masonic chapter and is believed to be the oldest building in Ripley County erected for the purpose of serving as a permanent Lodge Hall for a Masonic chapter and has remained used as such to present day.

In addition to holding meetings and ceremonies within the walls of the Lodge, Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 has played an important role in the social history and development of early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Milan. Freemasonry is considered a charitable, benevolent, educational and religious fraternity. It is charitable in that it is not organized for profit and is devoted to the promotion of the welfare and happiness of mankind. It is benevolent in that it teaches and exemplifies selflessness as a duty. It is educational in that it teaches morality and brotherhood. It is religious in that it teaches monotheism; yet it is not sectarian or theological. It is a social organization in that it brings good men together to teach and practice the art of Freemasonry. "Through the art of Freemasonry, the improvement and strengthening of the character of the individual man, Freemasonry seeks to improve the community."<sup>4</sup> As a Freemason Order, one of the most important goals of Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 is the practice of charity and improvement of the local community. As told by Lodge historian:

It's charity has been limited only by the needs of the community, without consideration given to affiliation with the Order...Funds were used for the care of the sick and needy, the purchase of groceries and clothing, fuel, payment of doctor bills, funeral expenses, tuition for orphan children. Our Lodge not only took care of its own, but helped the needy, worthy wayfarer on his way. The doors of our homes were opened for days and nights in time of mass distress...<sup>5</sup>

In addition to its regular meetings and philanthropic endeavors, over the years, Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 has opened its doors to the local community for a variety of purposes including an event hall, dentist office, and garment manufacturing business. The building has also accommodated other social organizations including the Order of the Eastern Star and the Royal Arch Masons No. 32.

Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 is an imposing, two-story brick building of modest Romanesque Revival design combined with Queen Anne stylistic elements. Within Ripley County, the Romanesque Revival style appears to be exclusively used

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<sup>4</sup>Indiana Freemasons. *Mission and Principles*. <http://www.indianafreemasons.com/>. Accessed August 2012.

<sup>5</sup>Smith 1968; p. 68.

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in public and religious architecture due to its high-style quality. Only six Romanesque Revival-style buildings are identified in Ripley County – St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Morris, St. Maurice School (1911) in Napoleon, the Napoleon School (1910) in Napoleon, St. Pius Catholic Church (1875) in Franklin Township (town not specified), the St. Charles Catholic Church (1907) in Milan, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church (1921) in Brown Township.<sup>6</sup> The Lodge is among only a few surviving community landmark buildings located within Milan. These include the Milan Methodist Church (1924), the State Bank of Milan (1920), the Krick Building (1895), Milan Bank (1919), and the St. Charles Catholic Church (1907). Among these landmark buildings, only Milan Lodge No. 31 and St. Charles Catholic Church feature Romanesque Revival architecture.<sup>7</sup> All others feature Neo-Classical design elements with the exception of the Krick Building whose style is defined as "19<sup>th</sup> Century Functional."<sup>8</sup> The Milan Lodge Hall is the only public, commercial, or religious building in Milan containing elements of the Queen Anne style, which is most often used for residential construction. Only three non-residential landmark buildings in Ripley County have been identified as Queen Anne construction. These include St. Mark's Manse (1902) in Batesville, a commercial building (c.1890) also in Batesville; and the Freeman Hotel (1900) in Osgood.<sup>9</sup> Not only is the Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 considered a local landmark, it is perhaps one of the best examples in Ripley County of a Romanesque Revival building. Furthermore, it is the only known example of a Romanesque Revival building constructed for the purpose of serving as a permanent meeting hall for a fraternal or social organization in Ripley County.

For over 100 years the building has continuously served as a meeting hall for Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31, a fraternal organization recognized for its commitment to charity and the improvement of local society and community. The building is among the best examples of modest Romanesque Revival and Queen Anne-style architecture in Ripley County. Milan Masonic Lodge No.31's imposing exterior, decorative stained glass windows, and ornate raking ceiling within the Lodge Hall demonstrate the exceptional craftsmanship and design of its builders. The design and style of the building not only reflect the strength of the Milan Lodge No. 31 at the turn-of-the-century, they are reminiscent of Milan's most significant period of growth and prosperity. The Milan Masonic Lodge No.31 is considered significant as a local community landmark for its continued use as a Masonic Lodge hall, and as one of Milan's few examples of modest, high-style construction and design. Despite minimal alterations, the building retains a substantial degree of its historic integrity, including materials, design, workmanship, setting, location, feeling, and association.

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#### Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Situated near the southeast corner of the state in the Ohio River Valley, Ripley County occupies approximately 288,000 acres of land and is divided into eleven townships. The county was organized in 1818, and named in honor of General E.W. Ripley, a distinguished officer of the War of 1812. Versailles was established as the county seat. The northern boundary of Ripley County is part of what was once the Grouseland Treaty Line, while the eastern border was on the Greenville Treaty Line. Elevations range between 100 to 600 feet above sea level and Laughery Creek runs through the county.<sup>10</sup> Farming is historically the principal industry with other pursuits including limestone quarrying and timber production.<sup>11</sup>

The Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 is located within the town of Milan near the eastern edge of the county. Milan had its beginnings in the 1820s and 1830s as pioneers settled land approximately one mile north of present-day Milan. A small village formed and quickly developed as a business center at the crossroads of "two heavily traveled highways, the Aurora-Napolean and Madison-Brookville roads."<sup>12</sup> As early as 1837, a post office opened in the town's first store owned by Stephen Selwyn Harding.<sup>13</sup> The small village and post office were referred to as "Harding's Store," until March 1, 1842, when its name was changed to Milan.<sup>14</sup> According to Price Myer's history, *Yesterday and Today*:

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<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup>Lisbeth Henning. *Ripley County Interim Report: Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory*. Indianapolis: Indiana, 1986.

<sup>8</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup><http://www.ripleycounty.com>

<sup>11</sup> Indiana County History Preservation Society. <http://www.countyhistory.com/ripley>. Accessed November 2011.

<sup>12</sup> Milan and Community Centennial: 1854-1954. Versailles, IN: Republican Print, 1954; p. 1-3.

<sup>13</sup>Gerster, Darlene and Roselyn McKittrick. Milan, Indiana: A Storied Past. Spencer, IN: World Arts, Inc. 2004, p. 1.

<sup>14</sup> Milan and Community Centennial: 1854-1954. Versailles, IN: Republican Print, 1954; p. 1-3. AND National Archives and Records Service, Post Office Department.

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Many of the first settlers were Germans, and a few Swiss, and gave much of their attention to grape culture and processing of wine. It is probable that some of them may have come from the grape growing and wine making areas of Milan, a province and city of Lombardy in northern Italy, and used their influence in changing the name to Milan.<sup>15</sup>

In the midst of the development of Milan as a successful business center, the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad was constructed one mile south of town by 1854. Understanding the economic advantages of a close proximity to a rail line, a gradual migration from the small village toward the railroad occurred throughout the 1850s. This migration resulted in the establishment of present-day Milan and the inevitable decline of the original pioneer settlement. The former crossroads community, one mile north of the present-day Milan eventually became known as Old Milan as businesses and residents moved closer to the railroad.<sup>16</sup> Today, less than a dozen families reside in the small pioneer settlement, some residing in homes once occupied by the villages first settlers.<sup>17</sup>

With the completion of the railroad, William H. Snodgrass, Thomas J. Snodgrass, and Comfort H. Fuller laid out the new town on September 22, 1854. At the time of the survey, the village along the railroad tracks was known as "South Milan" and 128 lots were laid out north of the railroad. That same year, David A. Brooks laid out the town of Brooklyn which consisted of 80 lots directly south of the railroad. Today, it is referred to as the Brooklyn addition to Milan and the once distinct communities are considered one.<sup>18</sup>

Like its predecessor, the new town of Milan quickly emerged as a thriving business center for the surrounding agricultural community. Retaining its name of "Milan," the post office moved from the original settlement of Milan to the new village south of the original pioneer settlement. In 1854, when the town was first laid out, much of the surrounding land remained dense forest. As such, many of the first industries were based on processing and marketing forest products to cities such as Cincinnati. Due to advantages arising from the town's close proximity to the railroad, other businesses quickly developed including general stores, tailors, shoemaker, and canning and preserving businesses. The first school in town was constructed in 1856 and located approximately 100 feet north of the railroad.<sup>19</sup>

In 1872, a new millinery store opened in town and in 1876, the Hotel Milan was built to accommodate travelers along the railroad.<sup>20</sup> By 1882, Milan had a population of 250 inhabitants.<sup>21</sup> The following year, Charles Arkenberg opened a successful saw mill in Milan. To meet the needs of the growing community, a larger school facility was constructed on a new site in town in 1884.<sup>22</sup> On September 3, 1888, "South Milan" was incorporated as the Town of Milan.

Shortly following Milan's incorporation, Krick Hardware opened in 1895.<sup>23</sup> Albert Krick (1855-1937), founder of the hardware store was also a member of Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31. Following his death, his son, Porter Krick managed the store and was an active member of the Milan Masonic Lodge for 75 years.<sup>24</sup> By 1899, 11 trains stopped in Milan and the rail line had merged with the Baltimore and Ohio Southwest. On May 19, 1899, the *Versailles Republican* printed an article about the opening of a new bank in the "busy town of Milan." The article boasts that "Milan is becoming the Mecca of Ripley County" with people arriving from 20 miles to trade in the town.<sup>25</sup> By the turn-of-the-century, there were reportedly more than 40 businesses operating in Milan.<sup>26</sup>

The efforts of Milan's business leaders during the late-19<sup>th</sup> century built the foundation for continued development. As such, Milan experienced its most tremendous period of growth and prosperity during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Larger businesses began to emerge throughout the early-20<sup>th</sup> century that would play significant roles in the sustainability

<sup>15</sup> Gerster 2004; p. 1.

<sup>16</sup> Milan and Community Centennial: 1854-1954. Versailles, IN: Republican Print, 1954; p. 1-3.

<sup>17</sup> Gerster 2004; p. 5.

<sup>18</sup> Local history files. Courtesy of Milan 1954 Museum.

<sup>19</sup> Local history files. Courtesy of Milan 1954 Museum.

<sup>20</sup> Gerster 2004; p. 7.

<sup>21</sup> Polk Directory of 1882-1883

<sup>22</sup> Local history files. Courtesy of Milan 1954 Museum.

<sup>23</sup> Milan and Community Centennial: 1854-1954. Versailles, IN: Republican Print, 1954; p. 7-11.

<sup>24</sup> Interview. William Ward, Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 Member, November 2011.

<sup>25</sup> Gerster 2004; p. 9.

<sup>26</sup> *ibid.*

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of the town. The T.H. Thompson & Son Veneer Mill opened in 1914. In 1924, the Thompson's founded the Milan Furniture Manufacturing Company. Together, the mill and factory employed upwards of 150 individuals by 1954.<sup>27</sup> Other businesses owned and operated by T.H. Thompson included the telephone company and the light, water, and power plant. The first automobile dealer in Milan was Fred W. Arkenberg who opened a garage, gas station and sales room in 1905. Other new businesses to emerge included beauty shops and barbers, restaurants, hotels, department stores, jewelry stores, among many others.

On December 6, 1920 Milan's town limits were extended to include additional land to the east. The first paved streets were completed in 1921. In 1929, a new school was constructed to once again accommodate an ever-growing number of students. Despite the Great Depression, the town of Milan would continue to grow and by 1938, the town's population reached 877.<sup>28</sup> By 1954, the population of Milan had increased to approximately 1,300 inhabitants. Today, Milan's population is approximately 1,762.

The success and prosperity of the small, rural town of Milan during the early-20<sup>th</sup> century is reflected not only in its commercial and residential properties, but also in the surviving architecture of its churches and public buildings constructed during the period. Fraternal buildings were a common venue for community involvement during this time, oftentimes used for public events, charities, and commercial space. According to a 1910 statistical report, ten lodges were active in Milan.<sup>29</sup> While there are currently other fraternal and social organizations active in Milan, the Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 hall, constructed in 1900 in the midst of the town's boom period, is the only surviving example of a fraternal permanent meeting hall in Milan.

Chartered May 26, 1846, the Milan Masonic Lodge had its beginnings as the Moores Hill Lodge No. 31 located approximately 2.4 miles southeast of Milan in Dearborn County. As a result of the growth of the new town of Milan, the Moores Hill Lodge relocated to Milan in 1850 and was renamed Milan Lodge No. 31.<sup>30</sup> The Lodge was the third charter in Ripley County after Versailles Lodge No. 7 and Napoleon Lodge No. 10.<sup>31</sup> Today, only five Masonic Lodge charters remain active in Ripley County. These include Versailles Lodge No. 7, Milan Lodge No. 31, Osgood Lodge No. 603, Holton Lodge No. 624, and Batesville Lodge No. 668. While Versailles Lodge No. 7 was the first Lodge charter in the county, it's charter was arrested between 1851 and 1855 making Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 the oldest, continuously active Lodge charter in the County.<sup>32</sup> The following chart identifies the Masonic Lodges chartered in Ripley County since its establishment.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Milan and Community Centennial: 1854-1954. Versailles, IN: Republican Print, 1954; p. 7-11.

<sup>28</sup> Milan and Community Centennial: 1854-1954. Versailles, IN: Republican Print, 1954; p. 7-11.

<sup>29</sup> Ripley County: 1910 statistical report. <http://www.myindianahome.net>. Accessed August 2012.

<sup>30</sup> Dwight Smith. *Goodly Heritage: One Hundred Fifty Years of Craft Freemasonry in Indiana*. Indiana: Grand Lodge of F & A.M. of Indiana. 1968; p. 491.

<sup>31</sup> Smith 1968; p. 490.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>33</sup> Information included in this chart was obtained from Dwight Smith's, *Goodly Heritage*, and the 2012 Indiana Mason Directory.

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Lodge No.	Name	Date Chartered	Charter History	Date of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Charter	Current Active Status
7	Versailles	1844	1851- charter arrested	1855	Active
10	Napolean	1845	1878- charter annulled	NA	No longer active
31	Milan	1846	Originally Moore's Hill but relocated to Milan in 1850 and was renamed	NA	Active
198	Ripley	1856	1882- charter surrendered	NA	No longer active
384	Osgood	1869	1876- charter revoked	NA	No longer active
497	Holton	1875	1880 – charter surrendered	NA	No longer active
590	Sunman	1893	Unknown	NA	No longer active
603	Osgood	1895	NA	NA	Active
624	Holton	1899	NA	NA	Active
628	Batesville	1907	NA	NA	Active

Following its relocation to Milan, one of the early meeting halls of the Milan No. 31 Lodge was located on the third story of a building situated north of the railroad track, a few hundred feet west of the depot.<sup>34</sup> An 1883 map of South Milan identifies a building at this location as the Masonic Lodge Hall (see continuation sheet, page 31). Unknown however, is whether the building was occupied in 1883 solely by the Milan Lodge No. 31, or if other fraternities, organizations, or businesses shared the building.

Both the Versailles and Milan Lodges played a role in the only major Civil War offensive that occurred in Indiana – Morgan's Raid in July, 1863. Upon the raiders entrance to Versailles on July 12, one Confederate soldier entered the Versailles Lodge hall and stole the officers' jewels made from silver coins nearly twenty years prior. Hearing of the theft, and being a Freemason himself, General Morgan ordered his men to return the jewels to the Lodge hall. The jewels remain on display in a glass case within the Versailles Lodge No. 7. Leaving Versailles, the raiders continued toward Milan. The minutes of the Milan Lodge No. 31 tell a story of the Lodge's unfortunate involvement with Morgan's Raiders:

*Whereas, in the untimely death of our Brother Richard Horsley on Sunday July 12, 1863, while absent from his home in the discharge of his ministerial duties, being met on the public highway by John H. Morgan's ban of horse thieves and shot dead from his horse by one of them while unarmed and without provocation, Therefore, be it resolved by the Master, Wardens and Brethren of Milan Lodge, that we sincerely deplore the loss of our late worthy and esteemed Brother. With him we have met in the hall of our Ancient Order and in him were exemplified all the cardinal virtues of a Free and Accepted Mason.<sup>35</sup>*

Following the Civil War, Milan No. 31 acquired the present lot (#14 of original Milan plan) on October 31, 1871, from Dr. Nathaniel and Harriet Isgrigg.<sup>36</sup> The Moores Hill, Dearborn County, Sparta Township federal census of 1870, indicates that Nathaniel Isgrigg (physician) and wife Harriet were residing in Dearborn County, Indiana. However, census records that same year for Milan, Ripley County, Indiana, indicate several members of the Isgrigg family were residing in Milan. It is unknown whether a building occupied the lot at that time.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>34</sup> Milan and Community Centennial: 1854-1954. Versailles, IN: Republican Print, 1954; p. 25-26.

<sup>35</sup> Smith 1968; p. 124-125.

<sup>36</sup> Deed book 40, page 428.

<sup>37</sup> The 1883 map does not identify a building on said lot. However, it is possible that the map does not include building outlines for residential properties.

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Despite the land acquisition in 1871, the present Lodge Hall was not constructed on-site until 1900.<sup>38</sup> Members discovered construction drawings of the Milan Lodge No. 31 dated 1899, in February of 2012. The plans (see continuation sheets) were drawn by contractor and builder, H.C. Griffith of nearby Holton, in Ripley County, Indiana. Little is known about Griffith. Several members of the Griffith family dating between the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> century were interred in the Holton Cemetery; however, H.C. Griffith was not among the markers. The 1900 and 1910 Federal Census indicates that a house carpenter named Henry C. Griffith, born in Iowa in 1842, was residing in Otter Creek, Ripley County, Indiana. There is no known surviving documentation indicating any other projects completed by H.C. Griffith. It is unknown whether the Henry C. Griffith residing in Otter Creek at the turn-of-the-century is the same contractor for the Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31.

According to William Ward, member of Milan No. 31, the Lodge was constructed for a cost of \$3,647. The furnishings reportedly cost \$4,200. The first meeting was held in the present building in 1901.<sup>39</sup>

The county's first Masonic Lodge charter, Versailles Lodge No. 7, constructed its meeting hall in 1847; however, it was destroyed in 1918. A historical marker currently marks the site of the former Lodge Hall. In 1918, Versailles No. 7 relocated to an existing Italianate building constructed c.1870.<sup>40</sup> Although this building was erected prior to that of the current Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31, it was not historically intended or designed to serve as a Masonic Lodge Hall. Other extant historic Lodge Halls within the County include the Osgood Lodge No. 603 constructed in 1914, the Holton Lodge No. 624 (date of construction unknown), the Batesville Lodge No. 668 (date of construction unknown), and the Versailles Lodge No. 7 previously mentioned. Holton Lodge No. 624 was not chartered until 1899. It is highly unlikely that the Lodge acquired enough funds by the turn-of-the-century to construct a permanent meeting hall. Batesville Lodge No. 668 was not chartered until 1907 and did not have a permanent meeting hall at that time. As such, Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 is the oldest surviving Masonic Lodge meeting hall in Ripley County.

By 1900, the Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31 had accrued enough funds for the construction of a permanent meeting hall and facility in which to carry out their charitable endeavors. In addition, the building also opened its doors to the community as an event hall and place for community gatherings. Milan Lodge No. 31 also shared the building with various social organizations including the Milan Chapter No. 32 of Royal Arch Masons (chartered in 1856), the Electa Chapter No. 135, and the Order of the Eastern Star.<sup>41</sup> The Royal Arch Masons remained in the building until 1990. The Order of the Eastern Star held meetings and other functions within the building until 1994.

Milan Lodge No. 31 in some ways also contributed to the commercial development of the town of Milan during the early-20<sup>th</sup> century. A 1902 advertisement appearing in the *Ripley Journal* indicates that the office of dentist Edward Ward was located within the Masonic Building. Another headline dated February 23, 1903, read "Will Make Pants." According to the advertisement, Mr. Levy and Van Dyke, founders of the Milan Manufacturing Company had announced that they had secured rooms on the ground floor of the Masonic building and would make pants for wholesale clothing houses in Cincinnati. It is not known how long the manufacturing company remained in operation within the Masonic building. However, according to the interview with Mr. William Ward of Milan No. 31, during the years of World War I, women would occupy the cafeteria of the Lodge and sew army pants for the soldiers. Whether the women worked for the Milan Manufacturing Company or acted as a separate philanthropy, the Lodge hall is associated in some way to Milan's garment industry during the early-20<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1954, the centennial year of present-day Milan, the Milan Lodge No. 31 boasted a membership of 175. In 1972, membership was 168. Today, membership is approximately 98.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>38</sup> Some sources indicate a construction date of 1899, others a date of 1900.

<sup>39</sup> Interview with Mr. Bill Ward, November 12, 2011.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>41</sup> Milan and Community Centennial: 1854-1954. Versailles, IN: Republican Print, 1954; p. 25-26 AND Interview with Mr. Bill Ward, November 12, 2011.

<sup>42</sup> Interview with Mr. William Ward, November 12, 2011.

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Name of Property

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

137-410-26010

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of repository: Milan 1954 Museum  
Milan Masonic Lodge N. 31





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**Photographs:**

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Name of Property: Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31  
City or Vicinity: Milan  
County: Ripley State: Indiana  
Photographer: Jaime L. Destefano  
Date Photographed: November 12, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 27: Façade (East Elevation) (Photographer Facing West)
- 2 of 27: Southeast Oblique (Photographer Facing Northwest)
- 3 of 27: Southwest Oblique (Photographer Facing Northeast)
- 4 of 27: Rear (West) Elevation (Photographer Facing East)
- 5 of 27: North Elevation (Photographer Facing South)
- 6 of 27: Principal Entry Door (Photographer Facing West)
- 7 of 27: Signage on Façade (Photographer Facing Southwest)
- 8 of 27: Gable Detail on North Elevation (Photographer Facing South)
- 9 of 27: Interior View of Principal Entry Door (Photographer Facing East)
- 10 of 27: Overview of Lodge Cafeteria (Photographer Facing East)
- 11 of 27: Door and Window Detail within Lodge Cafeteria (Photographer Facing Northeast)
- 12 of 27: Overview of Kitchen (Photographer Facing Northeast)
- 13 of 27: Original Wood Cabinets in Kitchen (Photographer Facing Southwest)
- 14 of 27: View towards Furnace Room (Former Dentist Office) and Rear Exit Door (Photographer Facing West)
- 15 of 27: Interior View of Rear Addition (Photographer Facing Northwest)
- 16 of 27: Detail of Stained Glass Window Transom above Side Entry Door (Photographer Facing North)
- 17 of 27: Lodge Hall (Photographer Facing West)
- 18 of 27: Lodge Hall (Photographer Facing Southeast)
- 19 of 27: Ceiling Detail of Lodge Hall (Photographer Facing East)
- 20 of 27: Ceiling Detail of Lodge Hall (Photographer Facing East)

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- 21 of 27: Detail of Order of the Eastern Star Symbol within Round Stained Glass Window on West Wall of Lodge Hall (Photographer Facing West)
- 22 of 27: Lodge Hall and Detail of Two Doors along East Wall (Photographer Facing East)
- 23 of 27: View of Tiler's Room (Photographer Facing Northwest)
- 24 of 27: Interior Window Detail (Photographer Facing Southeast)
- 25 of 27: Hardware Detail (Photographer Facing North)
- 26 of 27: Preparation Room (Photographer Facing North)
- 27 of 27: Stairwell (Photographer Facing East)

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**Property Owner:**

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

name Milan Lodge No. 31 ATTN: Grayson R. Johnson, Lodge Secretary

street & number 6716 County Road 700 N telephone (812) 932-2323,  
cell (812) 528-3729

city or town Milan state IN zip code 47031-9741

**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.

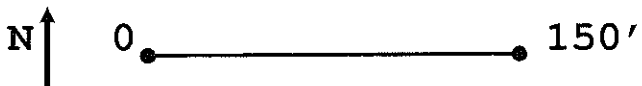
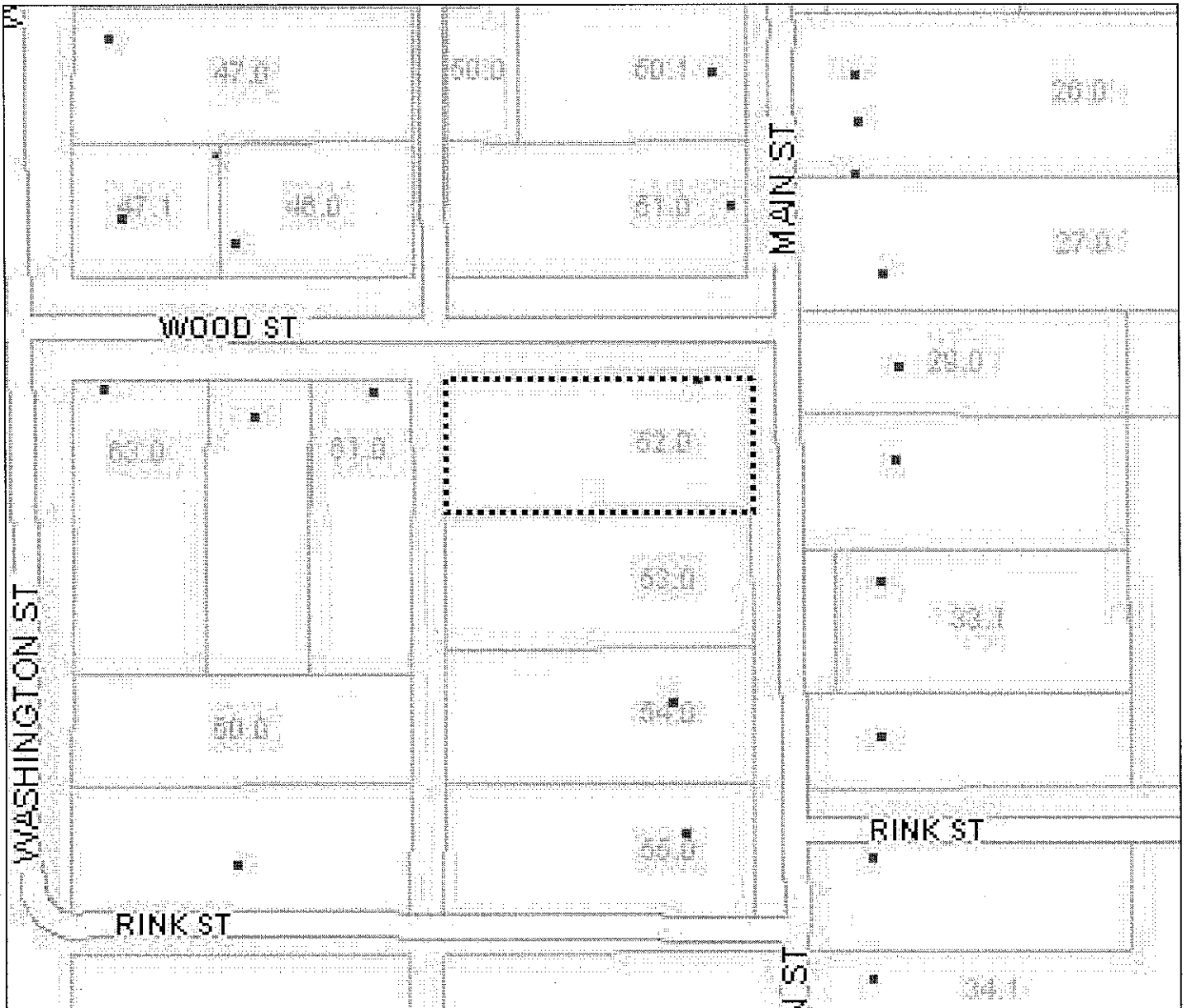
Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31  
Name of Property

Ripley County, IN  
County and State

MILAN MASONIC LODGE NO. 31  
312 MAIN STREET  
MILAN, RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA

Ripley County Tax Map  
Ripley County GIS Mapping

Parcel 69-09-24-441-052



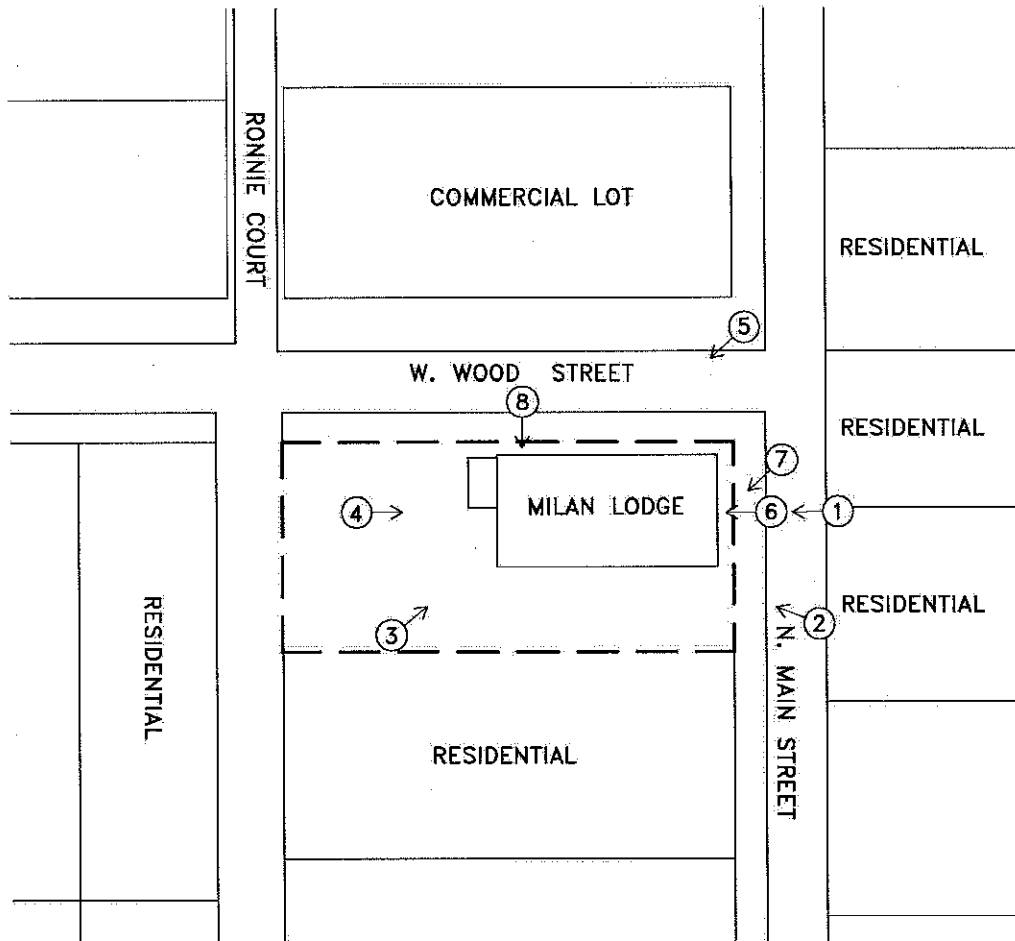
Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31  
Name of Property

Ripley County, IN  
County and State

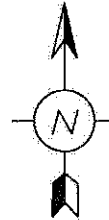
MILAN MASONIC LODGE NO. 31  
312 MAIN STREET  
MILAN, RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA

### SITE PLAN AND PHOTO LOCATIONS

Drawn by Michelle K. Taylor of Environmental Corporation of America



LEGEND	
① →	PHOTOGRAPH ORIENTATION
- - - - -	PROPOSED PROPERTY



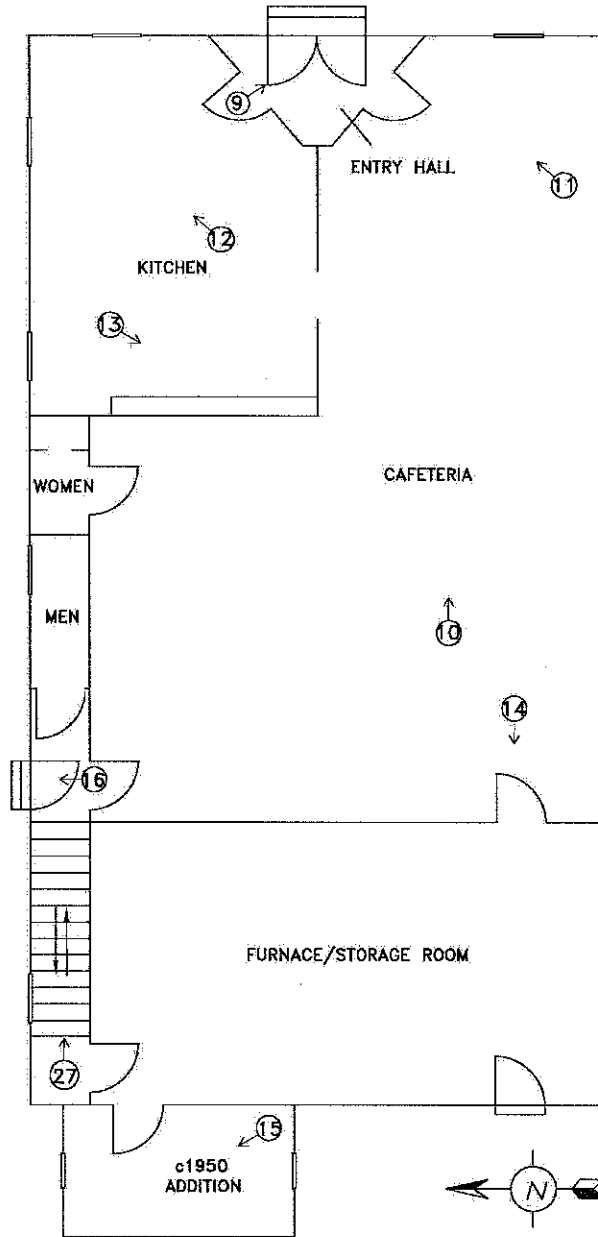
Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31  
Name of Property

Ripley County, IN  
County and State

MILAN MASONIC LODGE NO. 31  
312 MAIN STREET  
MILAN, RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA

### FLOOR PLAN AND PHOTO LOCATIONS— FIRST FLOOR

Drawn by Michelle K. Taylor of Environmental Corporation of America  
Not to Scale



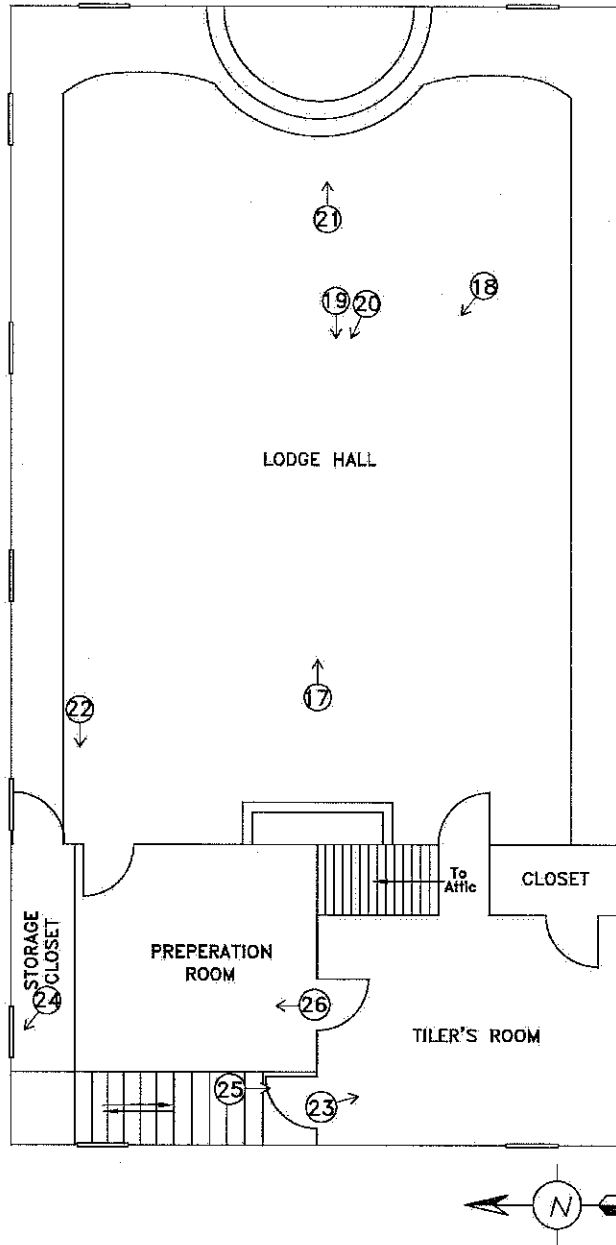
Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31  
Name of Property

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County and State

MILAN MASONIC LODGE NO. 31  
312 MAIN STREET  
MILAN, RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA

### FLOOR PLAN AND PHOTO LOCATIONS – SECOND FLOOR

Drawn by Michelle K. Taylor of Environmental Corporation of America  
Not to Scale



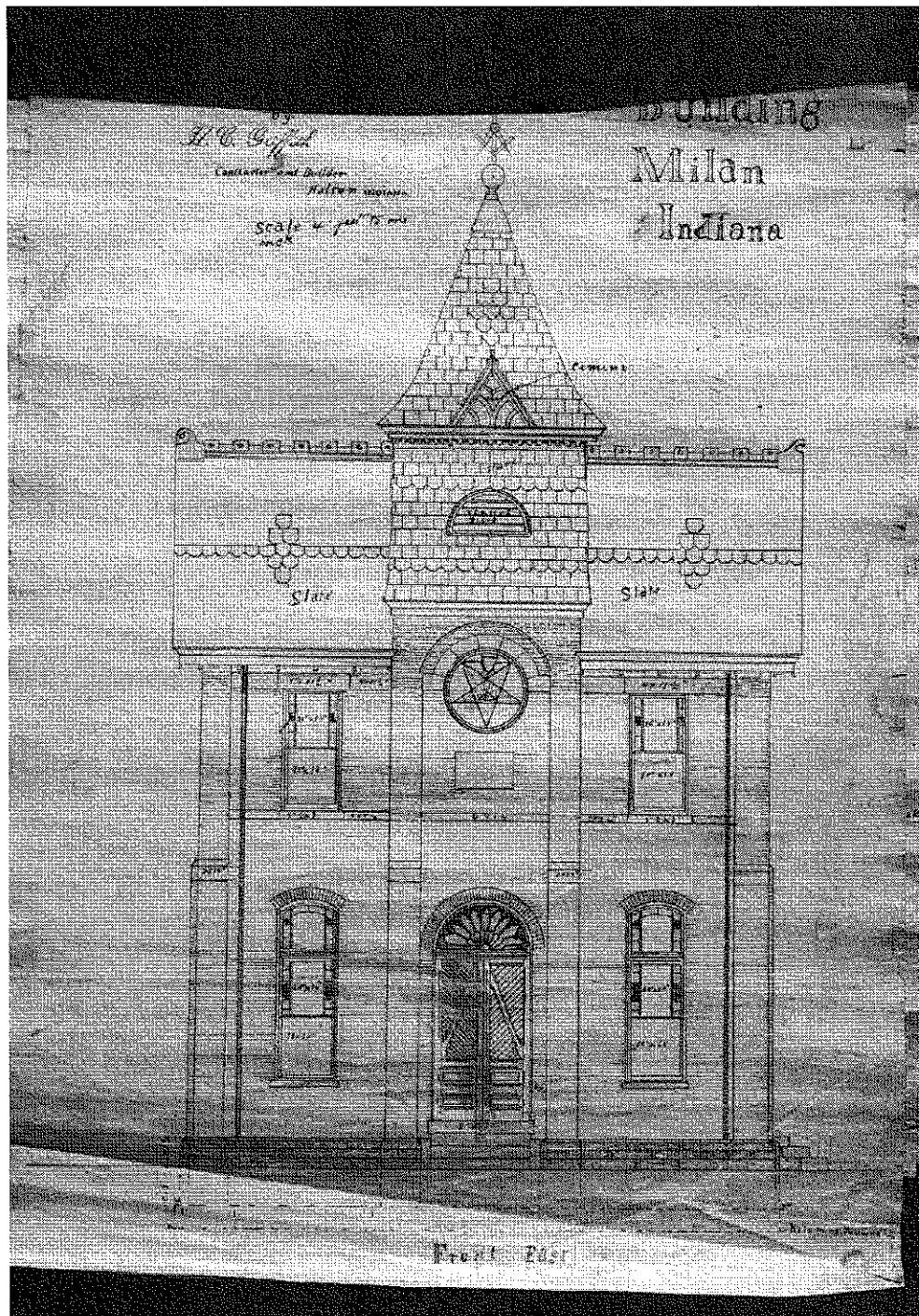
Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31  
Name of Property

Ripley County, IN  
County and State

### Original Construction Drawings of the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31

#### FRONT FACADE

By: H.C. Griffith, Contractor and Builder; Holton, Indiana  
Digital photographs of drawings provided by the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31  
Originals housed at the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31



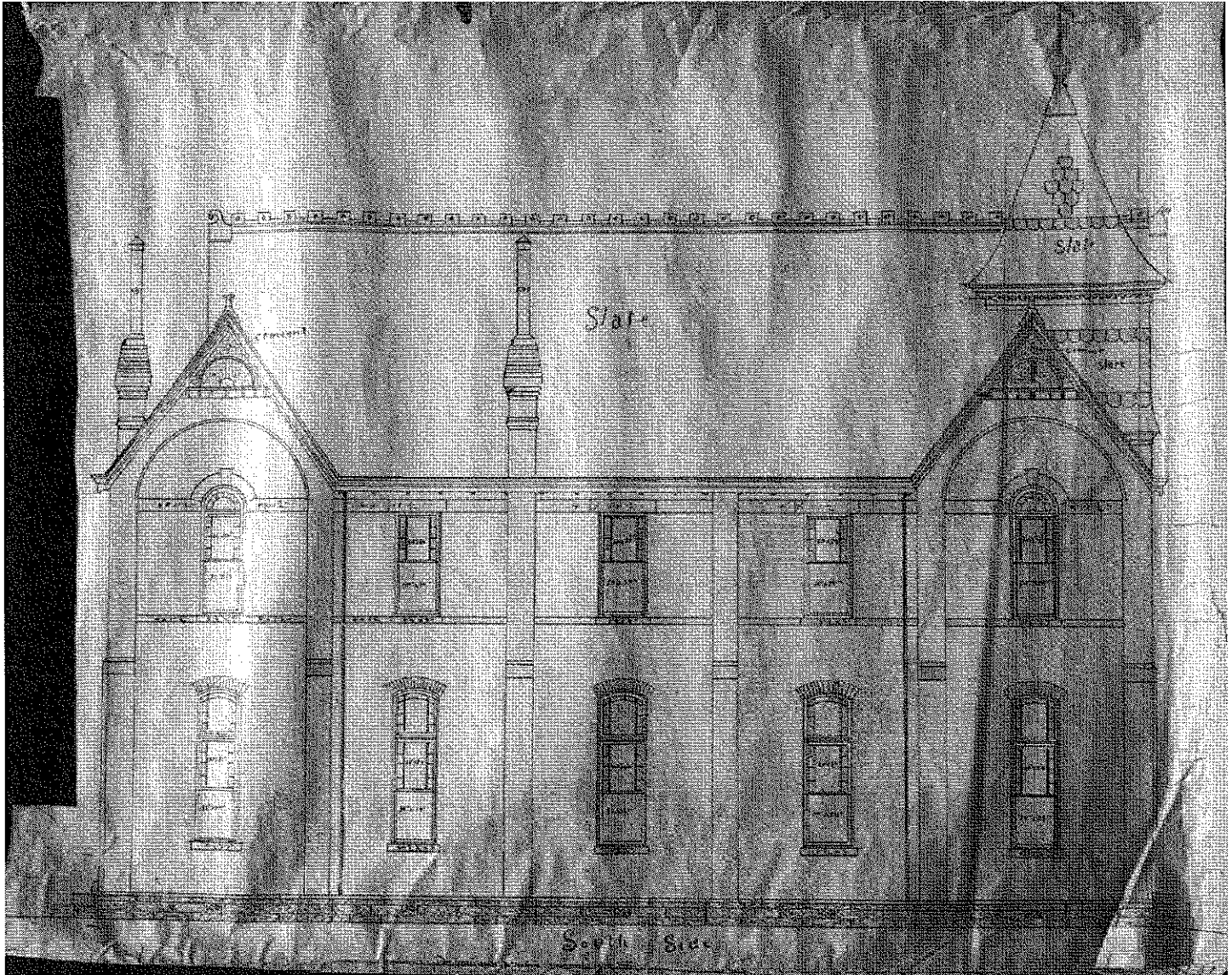
Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31  
Name of Property

Ripley County, IN  
County and State

### Original Construction Drawings of the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31

#### SOUTH ELEVATION

By: H.C. Griffith, Contractor and Builder; Holton, Indiana  
Digital photographs of drawings provided by the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31  
Originals housed at the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31





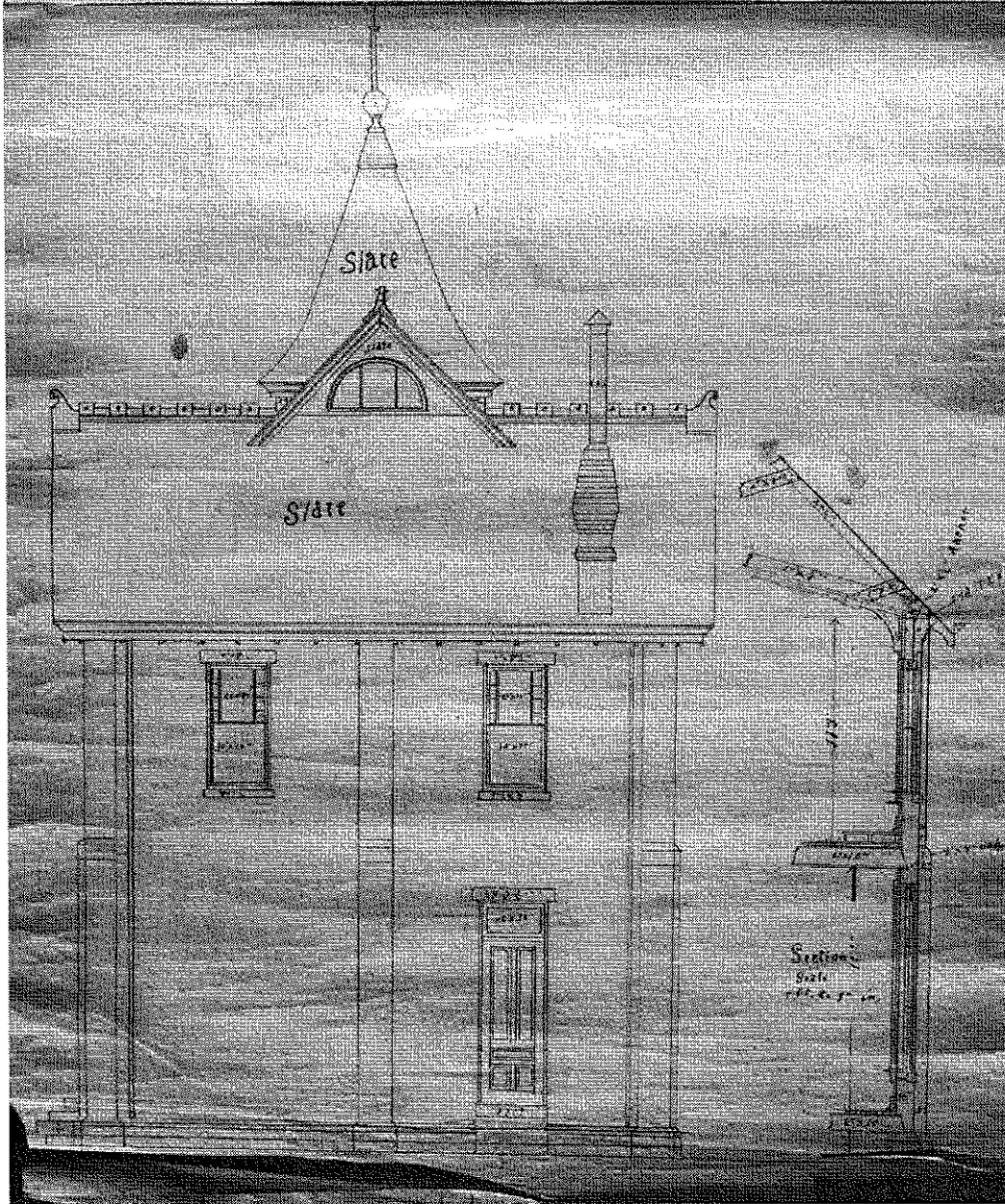
Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31  
Name of Property

Ripley County, IN  
County and State

### Original Construction Drawings of the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31

#### WEST ELEVATION

By: H.C. Griffith, Contractor and Builder; Holton, Indiana  
Digital photographs of drawings provided by the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31  
Originals housed at the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31



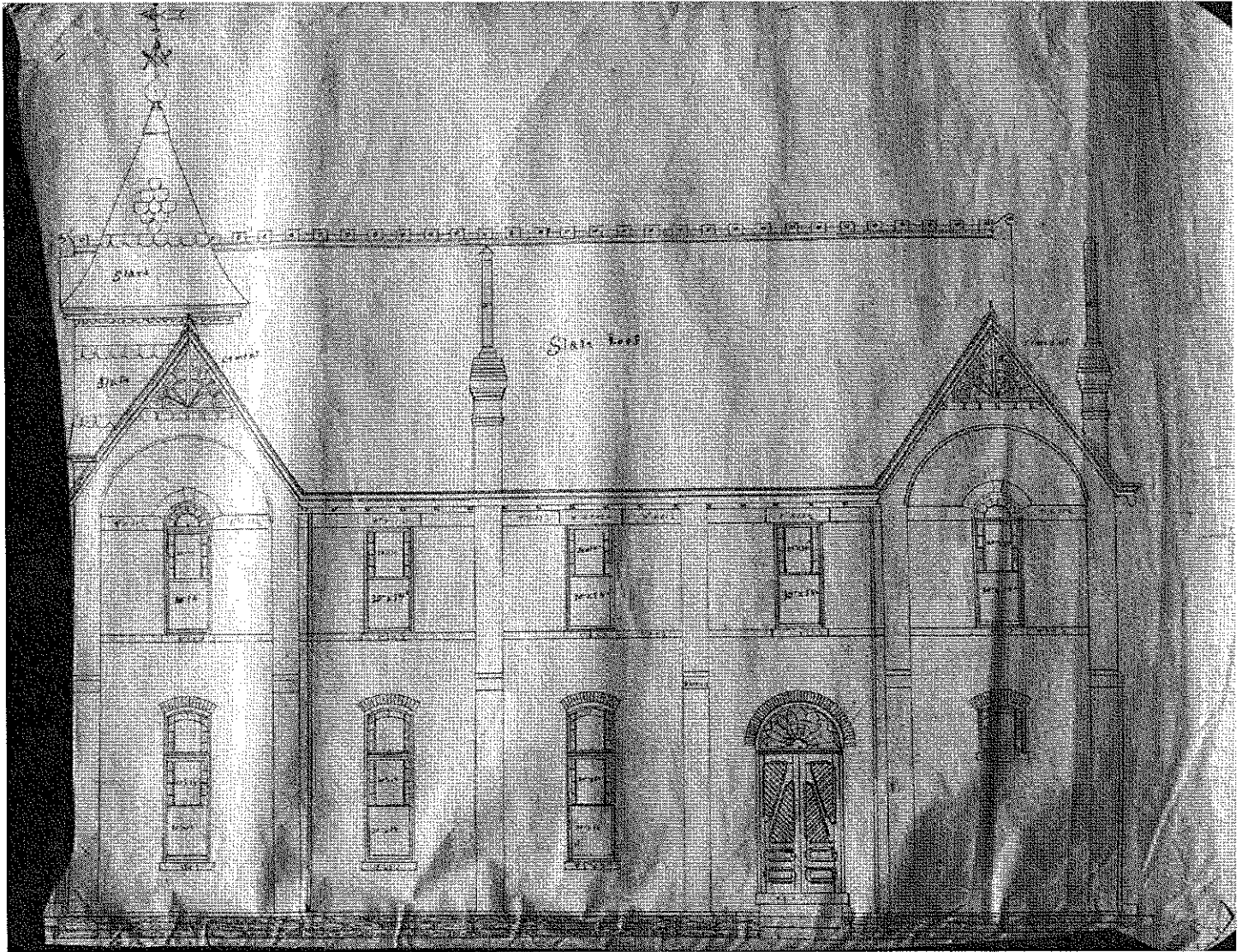
Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31  
Name of Property

Ripley County, IN  
County and State

### Original Construction Drawings of the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31

#### NORTH ELEVATION

By: H.C. Griffith, Contractor and Builder; Holton, Indiana  
Digital photographs of drawings provided by the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31  
Originals housed at the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31



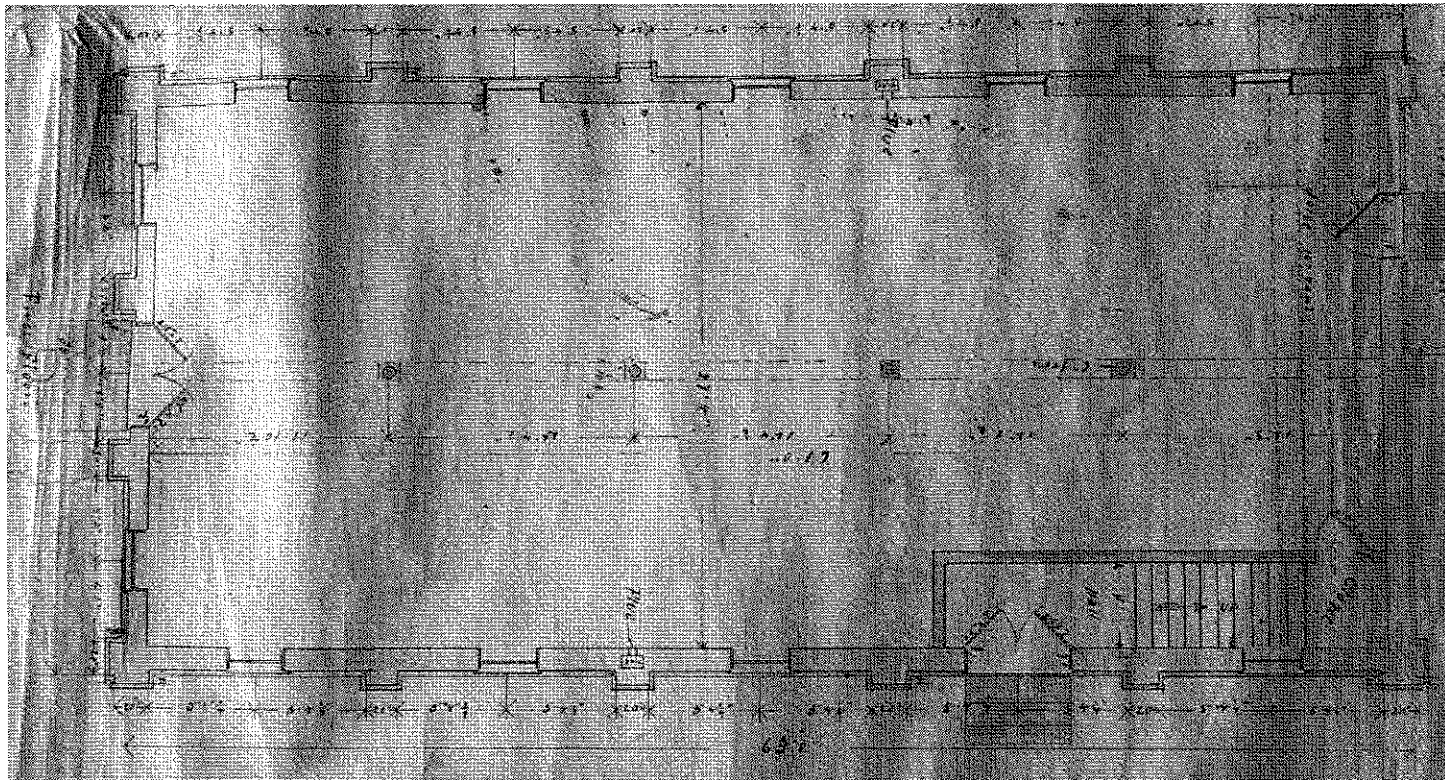
Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31  
Name of Property

Ripley County, IN  
County and State

### Original Construction Drawings of the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31

#### FIRST FLOOR PLAN

By: H.C. Griffith, Contractor and Builder; Holton, Indiana  
Digital photographs of drawings provided by the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31  
Originals housed at the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31





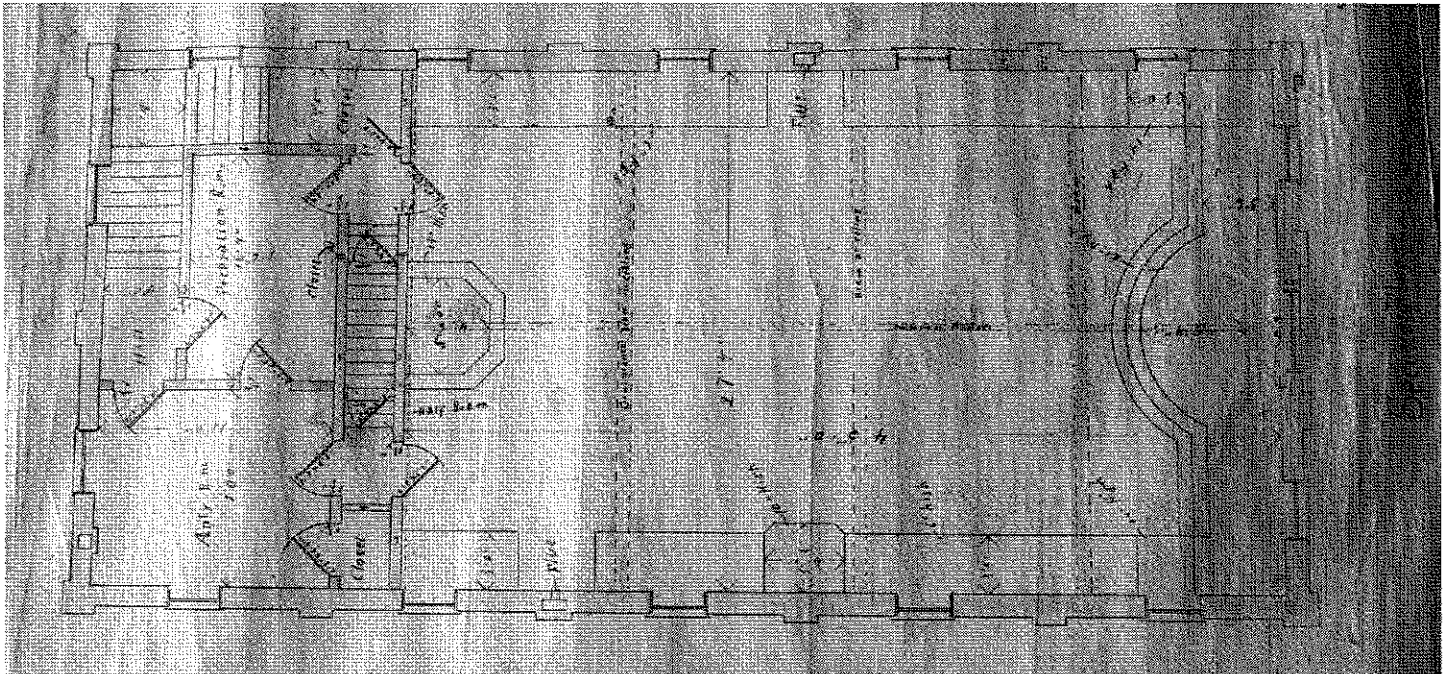
Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31  
Name of Property

Ripley County, IN  
County and State

**Original Construction Drawings of the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31**

**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**

By: H.C. Griffith, Contractor and Builder; Holton, Indiana  
Digital photographs of drawings provided by the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31  
Originals housed at the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31



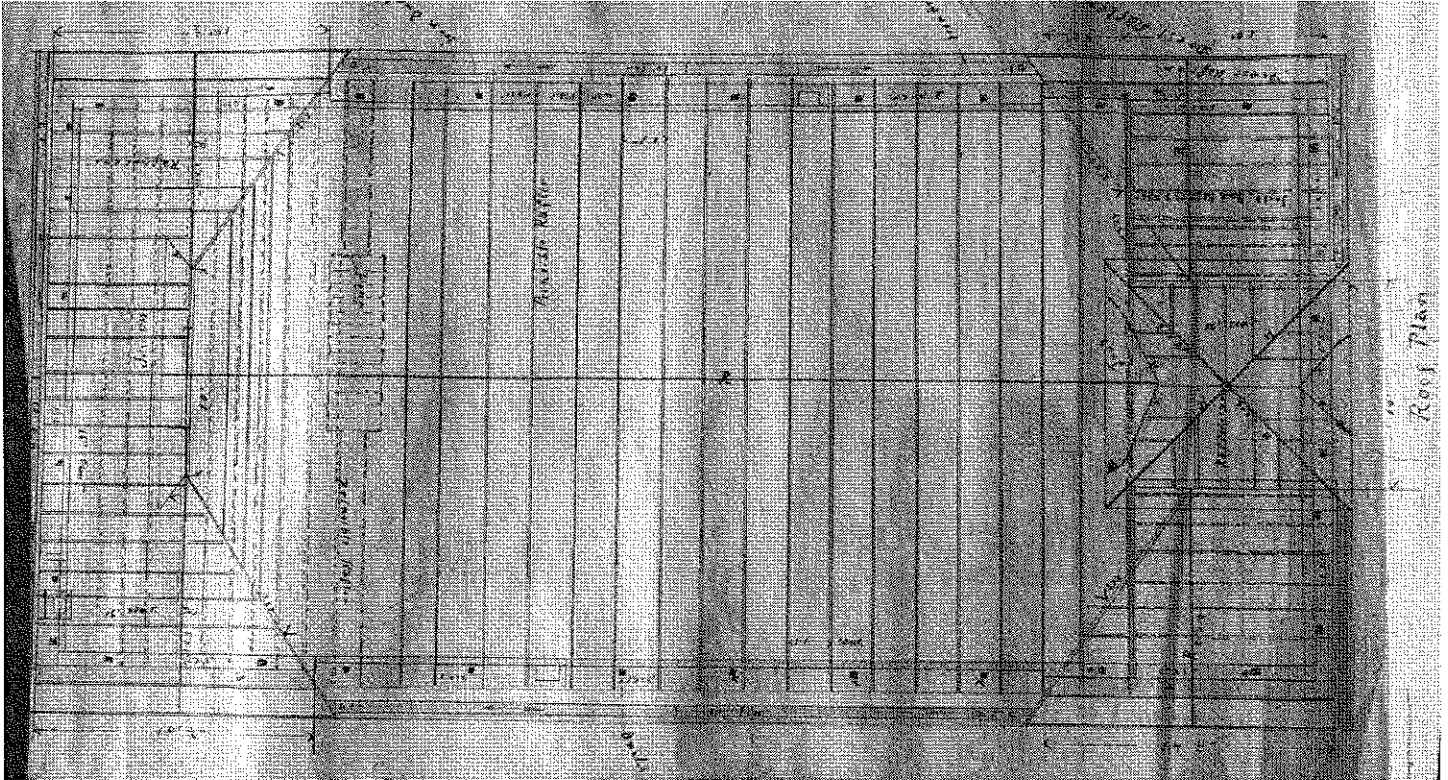
Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31  
Name of Property

Ripley County, IN  
County and State

### Original Construction Drawings of the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31

### ROOF PLAN

By: H.C. Griffith, Contractor and Builder; Holton, Indiana  
Digital photographs of drawings provided by the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31  
Originals housed at the Milan Masonic Lodge No.31

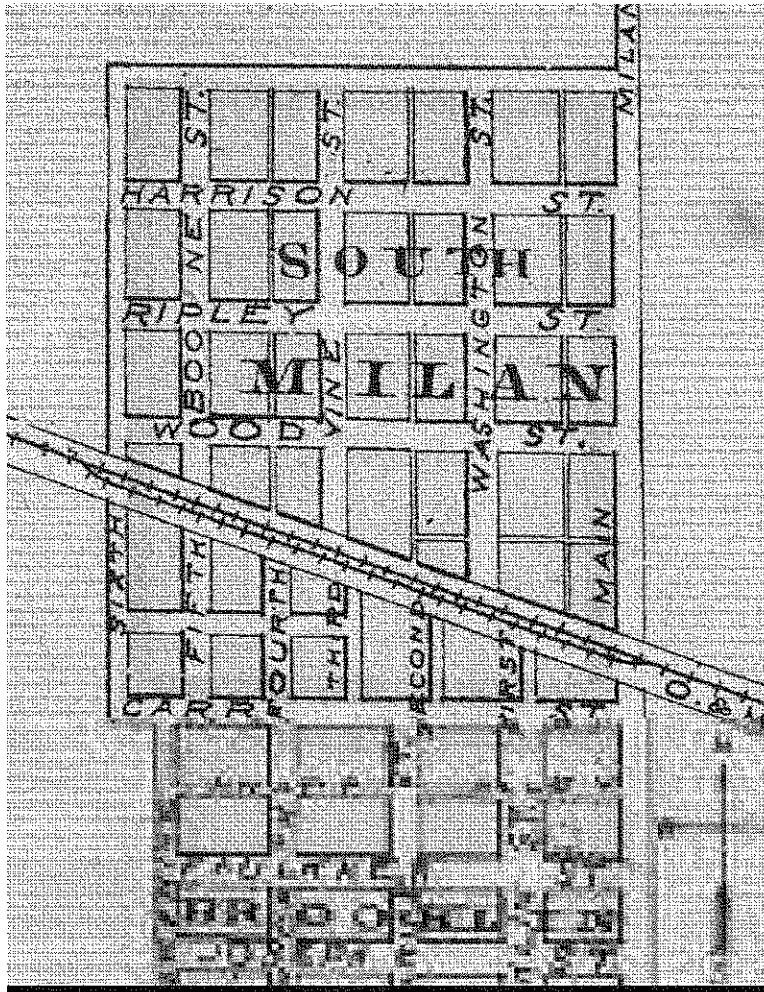


Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31  
Name of Property

Ripley County, IN  
County and State

### 1876 Plan of South Milan and Brooklyn

By: A.T. Andreas; Baskin, Forster and Company, Chicago  
From: Plan of Vevay, Switzerland Co. (with) Patriot, Versailles, Osgood, New Marion, South Milan,  
Brooklyn, Middleton, Batesville.  
Source: David Rumsey Historical Map Collection

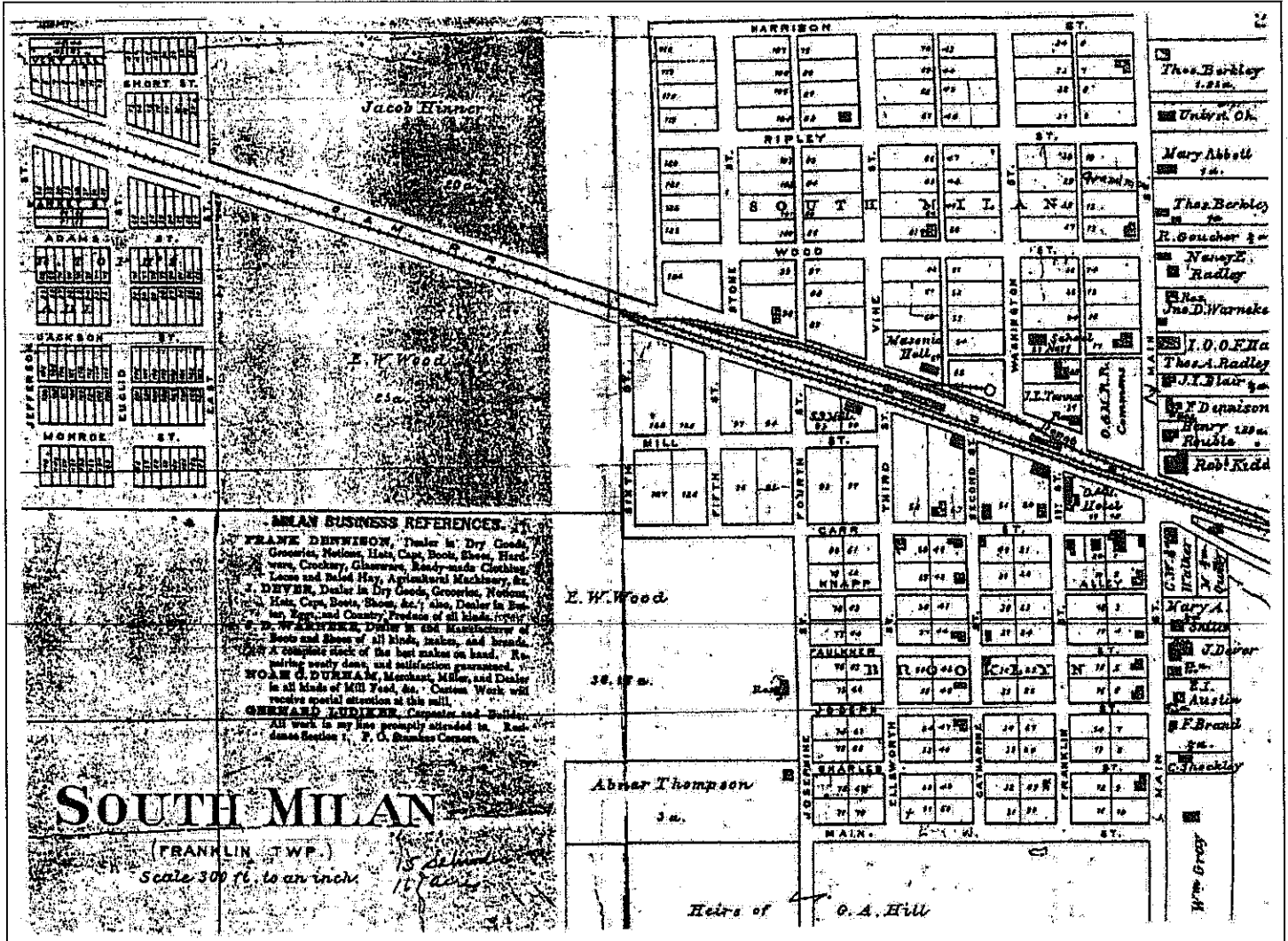


Milan Masonic Lodge No. 31  
 Name of Property

Ripley County, IN  
 County and State

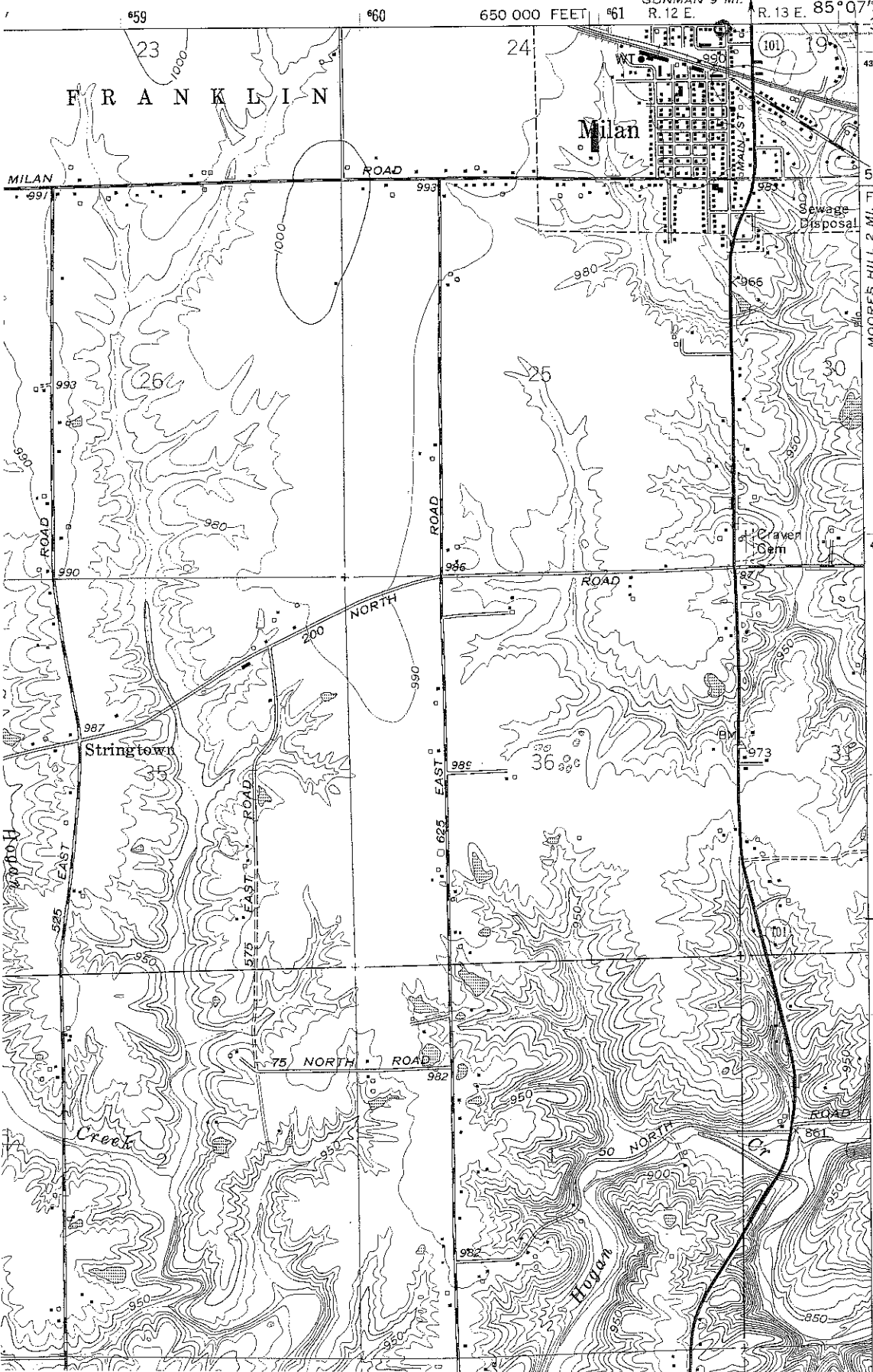
1883 Plat of South Milan and Brooklyn, Date Unknown

By: D.J. Lake and Company, 1883  
 From: South Milan, Pierceville, Pennsylvaniaburg, Herman P.O. map  
 Source: Milan 1954 Museum



MILAN QUADRANGLE  
INDIANA-RIPLEY CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

3882 II NE  
(SUNMAN)



Milan  
Masonic  
Lodge,  
Ripley County, IN

NAD 83 UTM

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