

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



393

# 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.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: International Temple, Supreme Assembly, Order of the Rainbow for Girls

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 315 East Carl Albert Parkway

City or town: McAlester State: OK County: Pittsburg

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

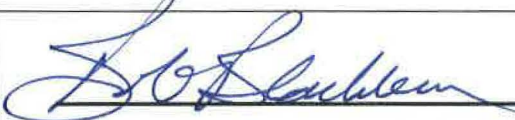
I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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 X statewide \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

	<u>April 29, 2013</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
_____ 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

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**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:)

For Edwin H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

6-14-13  
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(s)   
District   
Site   
Structure   
Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

**6. Function or Use**

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

SOCIAL: meeting hall  
COMMERCE/TRADE: organizational  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

SOCIAL: meeting hall  
COMMERCE/TRADE: organizational  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

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

Moderne  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The International Temple, Supreme Assembly, Order of the Rainbow for Girls (IORG Supreme Assembly Temple) is located at 315 East Carl Albert Parkway, formerly East Grand Avenue, in McAlester, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma. Reflecting the national and international composition of the Order of the Rainbow for Girls, the building materials were secured from various locales across the United States and some foreign countries. The buff brick building is situated on the main four-lane thoroughfare through downtown McAlester. The IORG Supreme Assembly Temple is an excellent and unique example of the Moderne style within McAlester. The building, designed by the Tulsa, Oklahoma, architectural firm of Black and West, has a flat roof and a brick foundation. The center section of the building is three-stories with matching two-story side wings. Except for the two prominent half-circular wings on each end of the façade, the building is rectilinear in form. The bowed wings with their seven-part fenestration are emblematic of the Rainbow and, thus, are an expression of the building's purpose. The three sets of primary entrance doors are double, aluminum-framed, glazed slab with full-width, aluminum-framed, glazed transoms. The multiple secondary entrances on the west and east elevations are wood paneled with large rectangular lights. The windows in the building are aluminum awning with varying numbers of panes. Decorative details include stone copings, brick planters, ribbon windows, continuous stone sills, red granite columns, green marble panels and decorative



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signage. Exterior features include a front patio area that includes a noncontributing sunken reflecting pool and noncontributing marble bench. To the east side of the patio, there is a flagpole on a concrete pad and a large granite marker which is inscribed as a memorial to Reverend Mark Sexson, founder of the IORG. Off the west side of the patio is a second flagpole which also has a concrete foundation. Exterior modifications have been minimal and consist of the addition of the five noncontributing objects, the placement of a center metal railing on the front upper stairs and the division of the front lower stairs into two sets of concrete stairs separated by a three-tiered planter. It is unknown exactly when these modifications occurred; however, the lower stairs were likely altered when the sunken pool was added in the landing above. The interior of the building retains its original configuration of space and much of the original detailing; however, some of the wall colors, fixtures and furnishings have been changed over the last sixty years. The sunken pool, marble bench, two flagpoles and the granite memorial marker are considered noncontributing objects to this nomination as, based on available historic images, the objects were added after the building's period of significance of 1950-1951. The objects are all minor in scale and do not impact the building's ability to convey its historic and architectural significance. Overall, the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple retains a high degree of historic integrity, is an excellent example of mid-twentieth-century Moderne architecture and is the landmark facility associated with the IORG.

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### **Narrative Description**

Designed by the Black and West architectural firm of Tulsa, the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple was built in 1950-1951 to serve as the headquarters for the IORG which was founded in McAlester in 1922. The general contractor for the building project was Dewey Lovae of McAlester. As the headquarters for the worldwide girls' Masonic organization, the building incorporated materials from across the nation and even outside the United States. According to "A Dream Come True," a booklet about the building published in about 1954, the building's red granite came from Cold Springs, Minnesota; the brick from Henderson, Texas; the stone from Bloomington, Indiana; the marble from Vermont; the terrazzo chips from Italy; the hardware from Connecticut; the tile from California; the doors from New York; the aluminum windows from Miami, Florida; and, the roofing and soil from Oklahoma.

Situated on the east side of downtown McAlester, the building fronts onto East Carl Albert Parkway, originally named East Grand Avenue. The building is flanked on the east by a modern, multi-colored, brick, office building and on the west by McAlester's historic Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse (NRIS #00000242). To the southwest, across the four-lane Carl Albert Parkway with a grassy median, is the red brick, Gothic Revival style First Christian Church at which Reverend Mark Sexson, founder of the IORG, served. Across the corner to the northwest from the First Christian Church sits the Grand Avenue Methodist Church which was constructed in 1922. To the northwest of the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple, directly behind the Federal Building, is the St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church and Rectory, which was constructed in 1948. As such, although located on a commercial thoroughfare, the IORG

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Supreme Assembly Temple is located in mixed commercial/religious area that contains fairly ornate buildings of comparable size to the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple.

The IORG Supreme Assembly Temple is elevated above street grade with a sloping, grass-covered area separating the building from the east-west concrete sidewalk that extends along the front of the building. The concrete drives on both sides of the property extend to separate, off-street parking areas on either side of the building; however, the drives do not connect on the north side as the back of the building is set flush with the embankment that forms the east-west alley dividing the block. Accordingly, the concrete alley is level with the second floor of the building. The embankment drops sharply on both the east and west sides of the building, necessitating a concrete retaining wall on both sides. For safety purposes, both sides of the retaining wall have barricades to prevent falls onto the concrete parking areas below. The fence on the east side is chain link (see photograph #0005). The barricade on the west side is formed by the metal, welded, pole railing which extends east-west along the concrete ramp extending from the second floor door on the northwest side of the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple. At the northwest corner of the property, the railing turns north before terminating at a meeting point with the alley and the matching railing that extends along the alleyway along the back of the Federal Building property (see photograph #0003).

The IORG Supreme Assembly Temple is a three-story, buff brick, Moderne style building with a flat roof and a brick foundation. The roof is flat and according to the building plans is of composition materials; however, the roof materials were not confirmed during the site visit. The building consists of four uneven sections which creates a distinctive stepped appearance. The main portion of the building is three-stories; however, this is divided into two sections with the back section, containing the commodious Lodge Room, looming above the standard-sized front section. On either side of the front section of the main portion, there are projected wings which are only two-stories in height. Due to the sloped building site, the building's foundation is not evenly exposed on all four sides of the building. The brick foundation is marked by a stone stringcourse and is identifiable by its gold-colored brick as contrasted to the cream-colored brick of the upper floors. The building does not have a basement.

The façade of the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple is stepped with rounded, two-story wings on either side of a rectangular, three-story, center section (see photographs #0001, 0002 and 0006). The distinguishing rounded wings of the south elevation are reflective of the curve of a rainbow, which has symbolic meaning to the IORG. Both of the wings are identical in detailing and fenestration. To distinguish the wings from the rest of the building, the cream-colored brick of the wings is set in a stacked bond pattern that is capped by a wide stone coping on the second floor. The second floor coping extends along both side elevations. On both the first and second floors of the south elevation of the wings, there is a set of curved ribbon windows. The ribbon windows consist of seven, aluminum-framed, three-part, awning windows. The top and bottom window panes are relatively narrow with the top panes being slightly shorter than the bottom panes. Below each set of windows, there is a wide, continuous, stone sill which on the first floors wraps around the side elevations. Underneath the stacked bond brick wall of the first story

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on both wings is a rounded, brick planter that contains a green hedge. In contrast to the rounded wings, the brickwork of the planters was laid in a running bond that matches the rest of the building. Matching the second floor of the wings, the planters have a wide, stone coping.

The three-story, rectilinear, center section of the south elevation is set between the rounded wings and the taller right-angled rear section of the building (see photograph #0001). The center section features brick laid in a running bond like the side and north elevations. Along the upper wall, there is a wide stone coping which wraps around the side elevations. Below the coping, in the center of the block section on the front elevation, there is signage which reads in all capital letters "International Temple/Supreme Assembly/Order of the Rainbow For Girls." The signage letters are colored a vibrant blue to stand out from the buff colored brick. Below the centrally-located signage, there is an inset area which is set-off by four, narrow, red, granite columns which are connected along the top by a horizontal red granite bar. Between the columns on the first floor, there are three sets of double glazed slab doors with aluminum frames. Topping each set of doors, there is an undivided, aluminum-framed, glazed slab transom. Above this, there are green marble panels which separate the floors. Between the green marble panels on the second and third floors of the center section, there are three matching sets of ten-pane, aluminum-framed, awning windows. On the marble panel above the center doors, between the first and second floors, there is an oversize color porcelain enamel Rainbow emblem which consists of a half-circle above two outstretched arms with clasped hands. The half-circle contains an arched, red, white and blue section along the top with the metal letters "B," "F," "C" and "L" evenly spaced along it. Below this are seven rainbow colored shapes which represent the primary teachings of the Order of the Rainbow for Girls: red (love), orange (religion), yellow (nature), green (immortality), blue (fidelity), indigo (patriotism) and violet (service). In the center of the emblem, there is a triangle with an "R" in the middle. Within the brick expanse on either side of the inset granite and marble entry portion of the south elevation, there are narrow, cut stone-framed, vertical strips of glass blocks set on end. These windows correspond to the front interior stairways. On the east side, just above the stone stringcourse dividing the upper wall from the gold-colored foundation is the building's Masonic cornerstone. The cornerstone is inscribed with the Masonic symbol and the name of the Grand Master, Lyle R. Ball. The date the cornerstone was laid, May 2, 1951, is also inscribed on the cornerstone.

Between the planters, in front of the three main entry doors, are the stone stairs that directly access the building. The stairs feature a center, metal, double, pipe handrail that is not original. The stairs are equal in height to the flanking planters and consists of five steps. Below the upper stairs, there is a rectangular, concrete landing which now contains a sunken reflecting pool. The blue-tiled pool is outlined by a red granite rim. The red granite of the pool does not match the red granite of the building columns. To the south of the pool on the concrete landing is a white, marble bench which is inscribed with the date of July 22, 1972. To the east of the concrete landing, there is a mansard-roofed utility box, a capped above-ground PVC pipe and a floodlight. Both the pool and the bench are counted as noncontributing objects; due to their ancillary function, the utility box and PVC pipe are not counted separately. On the south side of the concrete landing are the lower, concrete stairs which extend to the sidewalk running along the

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entire block. Originally, the lower stairs were continuous but, at an unknown time, the steps have been divided into two match sets of stairs separated by a three-tiered, concrete planter. Along both outside edges of the lower stairs and set in the grass, there are simple pipe railings.

The west elevation consists of a series of rectilinear sections which are stepped, creating one of the distinguishing characteristics of the building (see photographs #0002 and 0003). Beginning on the south side of the west wall, the two-story wing contains the rounded bay of the front elevation. Matching the front part of the wing, the exposed foundation is more gold in color and is separated from the upper wall by a stone stringcourse. Along the upper wall of the wing, there are six, symmetrical, narrow, vertical, five-pane windows on both the first and second floors. As with the other windows on the building, these windows are aluminum-framed, awning type. The second floor windows have individual stone sills with the first floor windows have a continuous sill formed by the stringcourse dividing the foundation from the upper wall. Between the first and second floor windows, there is a recessed brick panel which lends to the columnar effect of the windows. There are narrow grills in the brick panels in the second and fifth window columns. The top of this section is capped by a stone coping except for the north wall of the wing which has a copper gutter that drains into the copper downspout set along the west side of the north wall. Evenly spaced along the north wall of the wing, there are two sets of narrow windows on the first and second floor. The windows and detailing match the west wall of the wing, except the third floor windows are only four-panes instead of five-panes.

Set back to the east above the two-story wing of the west elevation, is the west wall of the three-story center section of the building (see photograph #0003). The lower two floors of this section are obscured by the adjacent wing. Along the exposed third floor wall, there are five vertical windows which are symmetrically located to align with the vertical windows on the rounded wing below. As with the second floor windows below, these windows have individual stone sills.

The three-story back section of the west elevation looms above the front section, including the central, front, three-story section (see photograph #0003). This section is capped with a stone coping and the fenestration pattern is symmetrical. The back section of the west elevation is divided unequally into two bays. The south bay covers three-quarters of the section and the north bay the remaining one-quarter of the section. The south bay is divided unevenly between the floors as well, to accommodate the expansive Lodge Room on the third floor of the interior. The third floor of the south bay contains six multi-pane windows. The eight-paned, awning windows are aluminum-framed. Below the windows, there are stone sills with recessed, brick panels underneath. Along the bottom edges of the brick panels are stone strips matching the stone sills. The third floor is divided from the second by a concrete canopy which sits directly atop the second floor windows. Along the second floor of the south bay of the west elevation, there are seven windows. Each aluminum window has four-panes and a stone sill. Another flat concrete canopy divides the second floor from the first; however, this canopy is located mid-way between the window openings on the first and second floors. There are five windows and an off-center door on the first floor. Beginning on the south side of the first floor, there is a small,



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rectangular, vent opening with a stone sill that is located on the upper part of the first floor in a position that aligns with the southernmost window above on the second floor. The next three first floor windows are matching, three-pane, aluminum, awning windows with stone sills. Below these windows, there is a recessed brick panel that sits on the stone stringcourse dividing the first floor from the foundation. North of this is a single, pedestrian, wood, paneled door with a square light and a narrow wood-framed transom. North of the door, there are two matching, four-pane, aluminum, awning windows with stone sills created by the stone stringcourse. The gold-colored foundation gives way to a concrete landing that has a slight ramp on the south side. West of the concrete landing is the original parking area for the building.

The north bay of the back section of the west elevation is stepped slightly east of the larger south bay (see photograph #0003). There are no window openings on the third floor of this bay. Obscuring the first and second floors of this bay is a projected two-story stairwell which sets back into the embankment along the rear of the building. On the first floor of the south wall of the projected stairwell, there is a single, paneled, wood, pedestrian door that has a square light and no transom. There are no openings above this door on the second floor. The first floor of the west side of the projected stairwell has no openings as it is partially set into the embankment with the concrete retaining wall extending to the west from about the center of the wall. Sitting atop of the concrete retaining wall on the second floor, there is a wood paneled pedestrian door that connects to the concrete loading ramp that extends to the alley. The door is sheltered by a flat concrete awning supported by a single metal pole on the southwest corner. To the north of the door, there is a single, metal light. Above the door on the third floor, there is a single, aluminum, five-pane, awning window with a stone sill.

The rear wall is built into the embankment that extends through the middle of the block (see photograph #0004). There are no openings in the projected stairwell section of the north elevation. In the main section of the north wall, there are a total of four windows on the third floor and eight windows on the second floor. The first floor is not visible due to the embankment. The second floor windows are narrow, four-pane, aluminum, awning windows and the third floor windows are matching except they are five-panes. All of the windows have stone sills. The second floor windows are divided into three groups. In the two outside groups of window, there are two windows in each group with the center group of windows having four windows. On the third floor, the middle group of windows is missing as this section of the building corresponds to the stage in the interior Lodge Room. Above the third floor windows, there are large vents with stone sills. Along the very top edge of the north elevation, there is copper guttering that connects to drain pipes on the east and west sides of the wall.

The east wall of the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple is similar to the west elevation (see photographs #0005 and 0006). The wall is divided the same on both side elevations, except there is no projected stairwell on the back corner of the east elevation. The front section of the east wall, including the two-story wing, has the same fenestration pattern and detailing as that on the west side, except on the third floor of the center section on the east elevation has one opening (the second from the north) that is blank.



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The back portion of the east elevation is divided into two unequal bays like the west elevation but with a slightly different fenestration pattern (see photograph #0005). The third floor of the south bay of the back section of the east elevation has the same fenestration and detailing as on the west elevation. Separating the third floor from the second floor, there is a flat, concrete canopy; however, there is no matching canopy between the first and second floors as on the west elevation. The second floor windows in this portion of the building are different between the east and west elevations with the east elevation having a total of eight openings, two of which are blank and one that is a narrow four-pane awning window like on the front section of the east elevation. The first floor fenestration pattern is also different in that the east elevation has two four-pane windows on the south side, then two mid-size three-pane windows, then a single door with only a rectangular, double vent to the north of the door. The door in this section is wood, paneled with a square light, matching the pedestrian doors on the west elevation. Above this door, however, is a nonoriginal, flat, concrete awning which is suspended from the blank window openings on the second floor. To the north of the door, there is a set of concrete stairs which go to the north and a concrete sidewalk which extends to the east towards the parking area on the east side of the building. Set in the grassy area off the north corner of the east elevation is the building's mechanical unit which sits on a tall, concrete pad. Between the building and parking area is a grassy terrace area. According to the original building plans, a parking area was not planned on this side of the building; however, at that time, the IORG's previous office building to the east was within the current IORG Supreme Assembly Temple's property line. This building was subsequently demolished with the existing building apparently moved farther to the east, allowing for creation of a second drive and parking area.

In front of the building, on the east side, there is a large granite marker and a metal flagpole (see photograph #0006). Both the marker and the flagpole have concrete foundations with the marker's being rectangular and the flagpole's being square. In the grass in front of the marker, there is a metal floodlight that lights the marker and flagpole at night. Located on the top of the grassy slope on the west side, there is another square, concrete block with a metal flagpole in the center and a metal, flood light on the south side (see photograph #0001). As the marker and flagpoles do not appear in historic images of the building, they are considered noncontributing objects. Due to their relative size as compared to the building, the impact of these noncontributing objects on the integrity of the historic property is negligible.

## INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple exhibits many fine materials, features and furnishings donated by the various Rainbow chapters. This includes some notable artwork, such as the 1950 portrait of Reverend Sexson in the library that was commissioned by the Texas Grand Assembly and painted by noted Texas artist Dimitri Vail and the bronze bust of Reverend Sexson in the lobby which was done by well-known California artist Gladys Bush. Character defining attributes of the interior include the original configuration of the majority of spaces and

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a large majority of original materials and finishes. While some materials have been replaced over the sixty-plus history of the building, the interior retains a good degree of historic integrity.

The three sets of exterior, double, glazed slab, aluminum-framed, front doors open onto an enclosed vestibule with a complete set of matching interior doors. Through the three sets of interior, double, glazed slab, aluminum-framed doors is the building's lobby which is an east-west rectangular area (see photograph #0007). The lobby features white walls, pink marble and granite wainscoting and a terrazzo floor. On either side of the lobby, there is a pink marble and granite staircase which extend southwards for half a flight before turning back northward. On the east side of the north lobby wall is the building's elevator. To the west of the elevator, there is a granite encircled information board. On the west side of the north wall is a metal building plaque which provides the names of the building committee, architect and contractor, among other information.

The east wing of the first floor has always been the IORG library and gallery (see photograph #0008). The north-south rectangular library room extends the full length of the front wing. This room originally had walls of Caribbean blue with a terrazzo floor and birch woodwork and paneling. While the terrazzo floor and birch woodwork remain intact, the upper walls have been painted an off-white and the ceiling has been modified. The changes to the ceiling including replacing the historic pendant light fixtures with flush fluorescent lights.

The west wing of the first floor contains what was originally the first floor banquet and recreation room but in 1985 became the Oklahoma Room (see photograph #0009). As with the library, the north-south rectangular banquet room extends the full length of the two-story wing. The room was originally finished in two-shades of raspberry with the terrazzo floor having matching shades. The room was carpeted and painted in 1985 with new furnishings added at the same time. The pendant light fixtures have been replaced; however, the birch wainscoting remains in place along all four walls, including the curved south wall.

Through the double doors in the northeast corner of the first floor banquet room is the kitchen (see photograph #0010). The kitchen retains its white cabinets with yellow Formica tops and the dumb waiter in the southwest corner which moved food to the second floor banquet room. The reported blue walls of the room, however, are now white. Although the refrigerator has been replaced, the original double oven remains in its historic location.

Along the central corridor to the north of the first floor lobby, there are restrooms for men and women on either side of the hallway. Along the west side of the hallway and north of the men's restroom is the kitchen with a large concrete-floored stockroom situated in the far northwest corner of the building. In the far northwest corner of the stockroom is an interior doorway to the enclosed stairwell on the west elevation. Within the stairwell, there is an exterior pedestrian door on the south wall. The kitchen and storeroom are separated by a short east-west hallway that features a green and brown inlaid linoleum block floor covering and an exterior door on the west elevation.

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On the east side of the main north-south first floor hallway and to the north of the ladies room is the only living quarters in the building. The Supreme Worthy Advisor's Apartment, or den as it was also called, consists of a spacious bedroom with a separate bathroom. While the bathroom retains its original two-toned blue tile wainscoting, the paint color in the bathroom and bedroom has been changed to a medium gray. The original, brown and tan, inlaid linoleum floor in the bedroom has been covered with carpet, as has the bathroom floor. North of the apartment along the first floor corridor is the locker room which includes a finishing room on the west side and a bathroom on the east side. The locker room retains its original floor covering, as do the restrooms on the south side of the corridor. The mechanical room, with an exterior door situated in the east wall, is located in the far northeast corner of the first floor.

The second floor is divided similar to the first floor. The stairways from the first floor open onto an east-west corridor (see photograph #0012). As with the lobby below, the corridor has a pink granite and marble wainscoting and an inlaid linoleum floor that matches the east-west corridor on the first floor. The Trophy, or Sun, Room occupies the rectangular space between the stairwells. The north wall of the Trophy Room is a multi-paned glass with matching, double, glass paned doors. On the east and west walls of the Trophy Room are wood and glass trophy cases. The sills of the windows in the Trophy Room are green marble that matches the marble panels on the front of the building. The carpet in the room was donated in 2006 by the Arkansas Grand Assembly.

The east wing of the second floor contains the spacious Supreme Recorder's Office and, in the south side with the curved wall, the Supreme Worthy Advisor's Office. Originally having a green block linoleum floor, both rooms have been carpeted using funds provided by the Illinois Grand Assembly. The light green carpet is reminiscent of the original green theme of the room. The ceiling has also been modernized. There is a separate restroom in the northeast corner of the Supreme Worthy Advisor's Office. The corresponding space on the west wall of the wing is a closet space in the Supreme Recorder's Office.

The west wing of the second floor is the Grand Cross Room (see photograph #0011). This room was redecorated in 1994. Originally, this room featured blue walls and a brown inlaid linoleum block floor. Currently, the walls are a two-toned pink with a green carpet. The ceiling in this room has also been replaced. Off the northeast corner of the room is the pantry room which is linked to the kitchen below by the dumb waiter.

Similar to the first floor, the north portion of the second floor is divided by a central north-south corridor. As with the other front corridors, the walls of the second floor corridor have a pink granite and marble wainscoting. There is a janitor's room and men's restroom on the southeast side of the second floor central north-south corridor. Across the hall, is the women's restroom. North of the restrooms on the east side are two offices and a vault. The west side contains three equal-size offices. The offices maintain their historic floor coverings but all feature replacement ceilings (see photograph #0013). On the north end of the central corridor, there is a small display room that has double glazed paneled doors and full-width display cases that match the

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trophy cases in the Trophy Room. The display room has a striking yellow and brown block linoleum floor. On the north end of the second floor, there is the U-shaped shipping and storage room (see photograph #0014). As much of the IORG's business is handled through the mail, this room served a critical function for the organization. The room is lined with pink cabinets and features a pink-tinted, cream and green block linoleum floor. The shipping and storage room also has a dumb waiter to move supplies from the stockroom on the first floor. In the far northwest corner of the room, is a pedestrian door which opens onto the enclosed stairwell on the west side of the building. In a direct line to the interior door, is the exterior second floor door that has a concrete ramp to the alleyway.

The third floor is accessed by the two front stairwells and the elevator. The corridors on this level of the building do not have the pink granite and marble wainscoting of the lower floors. The corridors retain their inlaid linoleum block floor covering. Between the stairwells on the third floor was originally a cloak room; however, this space is now called the Visitation Room. This room has accordion doors as originally designed. The floor has been carpeted and a newer ceiling installed.

Unlike the flows below, the third floor features two short side corridors rather than a central north-south corridor. Off the east corridor, there is the elevator and men's room on the east side. In the space between the two corridors there was a large storage room which has been turned into a pink-themed dressing room. Off the west corridor, is a commodious women's restroom. The distinctive Lodge, or Assembly, Room covers the remainder of the third floor (see photographs #0015 and 0016). According to newspaper accounts, the original name of the Lodge Room was the "House of Gold." On the north end of the Lodge Room is the elevated stage area. Flanking the stage area are separate dressing rooms. The original stage curtains were replaced in 2006. The main portion of the Lodge Room features a vaulted ceiling, pink painted walls and walnut plywood wainscoting. Above the doors to the dressing room are chromium lattice partitions that feature outlined maps of the world. The linoleum floor of the Lodge Room has been carpeted.

#### ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

There have been no additions to the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple. The exterior has only been modified by the changes to the front upper and lower steps and addition of the five noncontributing objects. All of these alterations are minor and do not significantly impact the ability of the building to convey its significance. As to be expected, the interior has undergone more alterations with many of the rooms being carpeted and having replacement ceilings. However, the configuration of space and many of the original stone and wood elements remain intact, as do the floor coverings in the corridors. Overall, the interior maintains sufficient character defining attributes to contribute to the significance of the building.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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



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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

Architecture

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

**Period of Significance**

1950-1951

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

**Significant Dates**

1951

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

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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

**Architect/Builder**

Black & West, architects

Dewey Loveall, builder

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The International Temple, Supreme Assembly, Order of the Rainbow for Girls is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of social history as the world headquarters for the Order of the Rainbow for Girls and Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of mid-twentieth-century, Moderne architecture in McAlester, Oklahoma and as the international temple for the Order of the Rainbow for Girls. The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (IORG) is a Masonic social organization for girls founded in McAlester in 1922. The construction of the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple in 1950-1951 marked a seminal point in the organization's history that resulted in a landmark building both in terms of mid-twentieth-century Moderne architecture and the IORG association. The period of significance corresponds to the building's dates of construction, 1950-1951, because this represents the time in which the building attained its place in history. The period of significance does not extend beyond 1951 because doing so would be a reflection of the building's continued function rather than significance. The building is eligible for the National Register at the state level of significance to reflect the broad impact of the building which, as the headquarters of an international organization, was felt statewide. While there are other Masonic groups and various other organizations for young women in Oklahoma that have left a tangible mark on Oklahoma's cultural landscape in the form of buildings and other structures, the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple is without par in the state as the only standing headquarters building solely dedicated for and to the IORG. The IORG Supreme Assembly Temple retains a high degree of historic integrity to ably convey its historic and architectural significance.

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

#### HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Order of the Rainbow for Girls was founded in McAlester on April 6, 1922 under the auspices of the South McAlester Chapter No. 149, Order of the Eastern Star (OES). In a presentation to the members of the South McAlester Chapter No. 149 during a regular meeting in March 1922, Reverend W. Mark Sexson presented the idea of an organization for girls fourteen years or older similar to the Order of DeMolay, a Masonic organization for boys that originated in Missouri in 1919. While the Worthy Matron of the South McAlester Chapter No. 149, Mrs. Sarah Church, expressed immediate support for the idea, she also identified the need for someone to write the ceremony of initiation. Reverend Sexson volunteered to take on this task and produced in one day a ritual that was "...divinely inspired." The purpose of the ritual was to address the "...contents of the Pot of Gold at the end of the Rainbow."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Margaret Kenrick et al, ED Our Place in Time: 75 Years of History, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Co., 1998), 15-16 and 112-115.

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At the time the IORG developed, Reverend Sexson was the minister of the First Christian Church in McAlester. It was in his church study that Reverend Sexson wrote the IORG ritual that continues to provide the foundation for the organization to the present time. Reverend Sexson described himself as a minister, poet, philosopher, naturalist, lecturer and world traveler. Of more import, Reverend Sexson was a long-standing Mason who served in a variety of Masonic offices and positions and received many Masonic honors. Becoming a Master Mason in 1902 in Bloomfield, Indiana, Reverend Sexson was affiliated with the South McAlester Lodge No. 96 in 1914 and served as Worshipful Master of the lodge in 1921. From 1912 to 1921, he was the secretary for the Scottish Rite Bodies in McAlester. In addition to holding six offices in the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free (A.F.) & Accepted Mason (A.M.) of Oklahoma during the 1920s, Reverend Sexson joined the Order of the Eastern Star in 1921.<sup>2</sup>

The first class of Rainbow girls consisted of eighty-six young women that were all from Masonic or Eastern Star homes. The ceremony took place in the auditorium of the Scottish Rite Cathedral in McAlester on April 6, 1922. Two weeks after this, an additional eighty-five girls, some from non-Masonic homes, were initiated into the IORG. The first assembly, Mother No. 1, quickly flourished as the organization spread across Oklahoma and the nation. Shortly after the first class was chartered, the Oklahoma Grand Chapter of the OES endorsed the organization which was followed a few months later by an endorsement by the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Oklahoma. Oklahoma's second IORG assembly was started in Wetumke in May 1922 and by June 1922 the state had a total of six IORG assemblies. In July 1922, the organization had started its nationwide spread with assemblies in Texas, Mississippi and the state of Washington. By the end of 1924, the IORG has assemblies in sixteen states. The following year, the Balboa Assembly No. 1 was instituted in the Panama Canal Zone and in 1926 an IORG assembly was initiated in Ontario, Canada. From these beginnings, the IORG has spread to more than forty-seven states, two American territories and eight international countries by 2012.<sup>3</sup>

In terms of numbers, the IORG grew from the initial 171 girls to 12,825 members by 1931. Nine years later, the membership had almost quadrupled to 50,890 girls. Although the meetings of the Supreme Assembly were suspended during the war years of the early 1940s, the 100,000 membership mark was passed in 1947. Growth continued to be tremendous as the membership roll jumped to 135,630 in 1948, 139,540 in 1949 and 150,000 in 1950. Within a year, there were Rainbow chapters in forty-two states and nine foreign countries. When the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple opened in 1951, the organization claimed an enrollment of 160,000 active members and 600,000 "majority," or over twenty years of age, members.<sup>4</sup>

The IORG was not the only Masonic organization for teenage girls. The Order of the Job's Daughters was organized in Nebraska in 1920. The Supreme Headquarters for the International

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, 69 and 112-115. See also "General Tour Information: Supreme Assembly, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls," unpublished brochure, (revised August 8, 2012), page 1.

<sup>4</sup> The McAlester (Oklahoma) News-Capital, 17 November 1951. See also Our Place in Time, 21.

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Job's Daughters is located in Papillion, Nebraska; however, their permanent headquarters building was not acquired until 1980.

The original location for the Mother No. 1 Assembly meetings was "...a section on the second floor of the Knights Templar building..." which subsequently became the Montgomery Wards building. Around 1925, the IORG moved into an existing, one-story, square-shaped, brick building at 319 East Grand Avenue (now East Carl Albert Parkway). The IORG rented the building for years before finally buying it after 1941. Through 1945, there were houses on either side of the building with McAlester's Carnegie Library on the adjoining lot to the east. The IORG remained at this location until moving into the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple in 1951. After moving into their new multi-story headquarters, the previous office building at 319 East Grand Avenue was demolished and part of the land incorporated into the IORG property on the east side.<sup>5</sup>

The drive for a new, more commodious office building was initiated as early as 1941 when the Finance Committee was designated the task of acquiring a building site. According to Reverend Sexson, it was a dream of the organization since it was founded to have "...a home for Rainbow as a memorial to those who have through the years made the organization possible and as a Shrine dedicated to Rainbow for our membership wherever they may be." He further concluded that "It was but natural that a building of this type should be located in the City (sic) where Rainbow was founded." Although unspecified, there were apparently attempts to have the headquarters building located in other cities and states. The committee successfully secured a site on the corner of North Third Street and East Washington Avenue that was occupied by the former Mercy Hospital, McAlester's original hospital building. However, when it was determined for unknown reasons that the Mercy building could not be remodeled or used for offices, it was decided to purchase the building at 319 East Grand Avenue. At the same time, an additional adjoining lot was secured by the IORG.<sup>6</sup>

A final building committee was appointed after 1946 that included the Tulsa architectural firm of Black and West, the designers of the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple. The funds for the building construction were approved by vote at the 1950 Supreme Assembly Convention, held at Long Beach, California. The contract for the \$500,000 Rainbow headquarters was let to the Dewey Loveall Construction Company of McAlester in late August 1950. The half million dollar price tag of the building included the cost of its furnishings, including the fifty throne seats in the Lodge Room. The actual cost of the building was estimated at \$300,000 with the furnishing to cost around \$200,000. Excavation of the building site was to begin within a week of the contract being executed. In addition to being "...the center of all activities of all assemblies..." the building was also to serve as "...an international youth center for the 42 states and 10 foreign countries where Rainbow is represented."<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup>Ibid. See also Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, McAlester, Oklahoma, (April 1945), page 6; McAlester (Oklahoma) Democrat, 21 November 1951.

<sup>6</sup>"Our Place in Time," 20-22. See also McAlester Democrat, 3 May 1951.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., 22-24. See also McAlester Democrat, 31 August 1950 and The McAlester News-Capital, 2 May 1951.

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A week after the contract was let, the architect's drawing of the building was published in the local newspaper. The most notable change between the drawing and the final edifice is the name on the building. The drawing features "Rainbow Girls of the World" while the final lettering reads "International Temple, Supreme Assembly, Order of the Rainbow for Girls."<sup>8</sup>

The plans for the laying of the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple's cornerstone on May 2, 1951, were revealed in mid-April 1951. At that time, it was anticipated that the building would be complete within six months. The general cornerstone ceremony arrangements were under the direction of Reverend Sexson. General W.S. Key, Deputy of the Supreme Council for the Scottish Rite Masons of Oklahoma, was announced as the main event speaker. General Key had previously been the warden twice at the State Penitentiary in McAlester, as well as state director for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s-1940s and commander of the 45<sup>th</sup> Division. The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M., Lyle H. Ball of Laverne, Oklahoma, was to have responsibility for laying the cornerstone. Mrs. Mabel Adkins, Worthy Grand Matron, OES, from Marlow, Oklahoma, and Miss Nelva Mosley, Grand Worthy Advisor of the IORG, from Enid, Oklahoma, were also slated to take part in the ceremonies. Also on the program was the Supreme Rainbow Sextet, a musical group composed of girls from McAlester under the direction of Mrs. T. Wilson Shipley. The sextet was to provide several musical selections during the dedication.<sup>9</sup>

The cornerstone ceremony went off as planned with all notable Masonic representatives being present except for Mrs. Adkins. Mrs. Erma Rogers of Pryor, Oklahoma, past Grand Matron of the OES, stood in for Mrs. Adkins. Helping to swell the ranks of attendees was the early dismissal of the local schools so that Rainbow girls and DeMolay boys could witness the event.<sup>10</sup>

The cornerstone itself was described as a "...huge square of granite" that was placed on the east side of the building's façade. The inscription on the stone was minimal, consisting of "The M.: W.: Grand Lodge/A.F. and A.M./(Masonic Symbol)/Lyle H. Ball, Grand Master, May 2, A.D. 1951/A.L. 5951." Sealed in the cornerstone was a metal box that contained a Bible, first Rainbow ritual, the current Rainbow ritual, some Masonic regulations, speeches related to the IORG and copies of newspaper accounts of the dedication.<sup>11</sup>

The IORG Supreme Assembly Temple was opened to the public on November 18, 1951. The official dedication of the building was delayed until the next Supreme Assembly convention which was slated for June 1952 in Kansas City, Missouri. The 1951 public ceremony included the transfer of the key from contractor Dewey Loveall to Reverend Sexson. During the building's first public opening which lasted just three and a half hours, over 3,000 visitors viewed the building's "splendor." This included "Hundreds of out-of-town visitors, Rainbow girls,

<sup>8</sup> McAlester Democrat, 7 September 1950.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., 19 April 1951 and 3 May 1951. See also The McAlester News-Capital, 1 May 1951 and 3 May 1951.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> The McAlester News-Capital, 3 May 1951.



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Masons and officials” and “Crowds of Masons, Eastern Stars, and Rainbows from miles around.” To accommodate the crowd, members of the Mother Assembly No. 1 served as hostesses and to register guests. At that time, the building was not yet furnished but it was anticipated that the Supreme Assembly would move in within a few weeks.<sup>12</sup>

Many of the contractors involved in construction of the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple extended congratulations on the opening of the building in the local newspaper. This included the architects responsible for the building’s design, Black and West Architects, and the project’s general contractor, Dewey Loveall. The Midwest Marble and Tile Company of Tulsa, responsible for many of the building’s interior materials, received mention on the same line as the architects. The painting contractor, Elmer Hawkins, and the electrical contractor, City Electric Shop, wished the IORG well in their new facility. The plumbing and heating contractor, Jack M. Walls, and the Hutchison Lumber Company were both proud of their contribution to the building, as was E.H. Smallwood & Son who were responsible for the roofing and tin work. Finally, the Long-Bell Lumber Company and Whiteacre Printing Company extended felicitations to the IORG “...on the opening of their fine new international headquarters.”<sup>13</sup>

Reverend Sexson described the IORG as “...an organization that performs services and kindnesses for mankind that are reflected in their own daily lives.” As with other freemasonry societies, the IORG was a social group that was “...built on the principles of Love and Service.” At the dedication of the cornerstone, General Key noted that “The teachings of Rainbow and affiliated groups will contribute to the moral and spiritual strength of the people of our country, which we need all the more in this day of challenge by men who do not believe in God.” With remarkable for the time foreshadowing of women’s equality, Key further proclaimed “...that the responsibilities of the world should rest upon women as well as men” and that “...such orders as the Rainbow help prepare a girl morally and spiritually for her place in the home or in civic and national affairs.”<sup>14</sup> The IORG’s contribution to the effort to promote the welfare of society in Oklahoma and internationally is exemplified in the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple.

The construction of the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple marked a pivotal point in the IORG’s history. Since the building’s completion in November 1951, it has represented the organization as its headquarters and primary seat of authority. As proclaimed by the IORG on its website, “This magnificent building was constructed for Rainbow Girls and funded by Rainbow Girls. It represents what can be accomplished when girls are empowered with knowledge, enlightened by travel, and energized by their own inner spirit.”<sup>15</sup>

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

<sup>12</sup> McAlester Democrat, 21 November 1951. See also The McAlester News-Capital, 17 November 1951.

<sup>13</sup> The McAlester News-Capital, 18 November 1951.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, 3 May 1951, 17 November 1951, 19 November 1951.

<sup>15</sup> “When and Why Did Rainbow Begin,” The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, <http://www.gorainbow.org/whatisrainbow/history.taf>, accessed 12 January 2013.

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The IORG Supreme Assembly Temple is architecturally significant both as an excellent example of a mid-twentieth-century Moderne style building in McAlester and as the architectural representation of the IORG. The Moderne style characteristics that are visible in the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple include semicircular wings, banded horizontal and vertical windows, smooth masonry and stone walls and a flat roof. The semicircular wings are particularly distinguishing because the wings with seven windows on each floor represent the Rainbow and its teachings.

The IORG Supreme Assembly Temple was designed by the architectural firm of Black and West. Ralph M. Black was born in 1883 in Rich Hill, Missouri, and died in 1976 in Tulsa. After attending Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, Black joined with his father, A. W. Black in 1914 to create the firm of A. W. Black and Son. In 1925, Black obtained his Oklahoma license and apparently entered into practice on his own. Robert E. West was born in 1904 in Britton, Indian Territory, and received his architectural training from Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State University). Graduating in 1926, West also acquired his Oklahoma license to practice architecture the same year. West opened his practice in Tulsa in 1928. The firm of Black and West was formed in 1945. Twenty years later, the partners added Wallace O. Wozencraft to the firm, changing the name to Black, West and Wozencraft. This firm continued in operation until 1972 when it was apparently dissolved and both Black and West retired from their Tulsa practice.<sup>16</sup>

In addition to the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple, other buildings designed by Black and West include the 1959 Skelly Building in Tulsa; the Eastern Oklahoma Hospital in Vinita in 1947; the Millner-Berkey Building in Miami in 1949; the Tulsa County Courthouse Civic Center in 1953; the 1957 Edison High School in Tulsa; the McLain High School in Tulsa in 1959; and, Tulsa's Memorial High School in 1962. In 1961, Black and West worked with the firms of Donald McCormick, Leon B. Senter & Associates and Associated Architects for the design of the Post Office and Federal Building in Tulsa. The firm with Wozencraft also designed the Pan American Building in Tulsa in 1965. Possibly leading to the involvement of Midwest Marble and Tile in the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple, West designed a building for the marble and tile company in 1945. It is unknown if Black was involved in this project.<sup>17</sup>

As identified in the 1998-1999 "Reconnaissance Level Survey of McAlester," the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple is the only example of the Moderne style in McAlester.<sup>18</sup> The rectilinear, multi-level design of the IORG is reminiscent of the grandiose McAlester Scottish Rite Temple (NRIS # 80004521) which was constructed in its current form in 1928-1930 just a few blocks to the west of the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple. The two buildings, however, are easily distinguished due to the clear differences in architectural expression. As indicated in

<sup>16</sup> "Ralph M. Black, AIA (1883-1976)," [Tulsa Foundation for Architecture](http://www.tulsaarchitecture.com/architects/black.shtml), <http://www.tulsaarchitecture.com/architects/black.shtml>, accessed 30 August 2012. See also "Robert E. West, AIA (1904-)," [Tulsa Foundation for Architecture](http://www.tulsaarchitecture.com/architects/west.shtml), <http://www.tulsaarchitecture.com/architects/west.shtml>, accessed 30 August 2012.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Dr. Alyson L. Greiner et al, "Reconnaissance Level Survey of McAlester, Oklahoma," (n.p.: 1998-1999), 32.

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its National Register nomination, the McAlester Scottish Rite Temple is a magnificent example of the Classical Revival style with Egyptian Revival influences. The IORG Supreme Assembly Temple, in contrast, is in the much less ornamental, Moderne style with smooth brick walls nearly devoid of decoration and continuous bands of horizontal and vertical windows.

The IORG Supreme Assembly is also significant as the architectural manifestation of the Rainbow organization. The building was purposefully designed to portray the ideals of the organization with seven windows banded across the “bows” of the building. The number seven corresponds to the teachings of the Rainbow. Additionally, many of the building materials were obtained from states with Rainbow chapters. This includes red granite from Cold Springs, Minnesota; brick from Henderson, Texas; stone from Bloomington, Indiana; marble from Vermont; terrazzo chips from Italy; hardware from Connecticut; tile from California; doors from New York; and, aluminum windows from Miami, Florida. Resources from Oklahoma, of course, also found their way into the building, including materials for the roofing and the soil that composed the building site. While the combination of these buildings materials is not necessarily unique, it is noteworthy that in the instance of the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple the amalgamation of these materials has a unique meaning reflective of the IORG.

As the architectural icon of the Rainbow organization, the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple attracted attention on a state-wide basis. At the time of the building’s opening in 1951, “Hundreds came from Oklahoma with McAlester and Oklahoma City, respectively, having the largest contingents present.”<sup>19</sup> Currently, there are no other IORG buildings identified in the state of Oklahoma. Separate buildings for Rainbow girls were likely deemed an unnecessary expense as the teens could utilize other Masonic facilities. For example, the IORG chapter in Tonkawa, Oklahoma, was initiated in 1922. When the Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 A.F. and A.M. (NRIS # 07000910) was constructed in 1925, the facility included an auditorium dedicated to the “auxiliary” groups of OES, IORG and DeMolay.

Local newspaper accounts in 1951 hailed the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple as a “...boon to youth” as it represented not only “...a challenge to the future and a guarantee to the welfare of youth.” As proclaimed at the cornerstone dedication, the erection of buildings, such as the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple, were indicators of the state’s progress. In addition to adding to the appearance of McAlester on a state level, the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple was proclaimed to make a “...contribution to the United States and to the world by assisting in the advancement of the ideals of the organization for which it is constructed.”<sup>20</sup>

For more than sixty years, the IORG Supreme Assembly has stood as architectural testimony to a service organization which continues to provide for the social wellbeing of young girls. The building has withstood the test time with minimal change and remains the only material manifestation of the IORG. As an excellent example of the Moderne style, as the only identified IORG building in the state and for its association with the Rainbow efforts to promote the

<sup>19</sup> McAlester News-Capital, 19 November 1951.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid, 3 May 1951.

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welfare of society, the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the state level of significance.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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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 # \_\_\_\_\_



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**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** N/A

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than One (1) Acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: <b>34.932501</b> | Longitude: <b>-95.764706</b> |
| 2. Latitude:                  | Longitude:                   |
| 3. Latitude:                  | Longitude:                   |
| 4. Latitude:                  | Longitude:                   |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |                    |                        |                          |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Zone: <b>15</b> | Easting: <b>247475</b> | Northing: <b>3869048</b> |
| 2. Zone:           | Easting:               | Northing:                |
| 3. Zone:           | Easting:               | Northing:                |
| 4. Zone:           | Easting :              | Northing:                |

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

East 45' of Lot 8, all of Lot 9 and west 27' of Lot 10, Block 321, Original Townsite, McAlester, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include the property historically associated with the International Temple, Supreme Assembly, Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Cynthia Savage, Architectural Historian, for IORG Supreme Assembly  
organization: A.R.C.H. Consulting  
street & number: 346 County Road 1230  
city or town: Pocasset state: OK zip code: 73079  
e-mail: savage3@wildblue.net  
telephone: 405/459-6200  
date: November 2012

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

International Temple, Supreme Assembly, Order of the Rainbow for Girls  
Name of Property

Pittsburg County, OK  
County and State

### **Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### **Photo Log**

Name of Property:

**International Temple, Supreme Assembly, Order of the Rainbow for Girls**

City or Vicinity: **McAlester**

County: **Pittsburg**

State: **Oklahoma**

Photographer: **Cynthia Savage**

Date Photographed: **24 August 2012**

All photographs were printed on an Epson Stylus Photo R2400 printer, using Epson Ultrachrome K3 ink and Premium Presentation Paper Matte.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

**Photo 0001:** South elevation (back center), noncontributing flagpoles (left foreground and right foreground), lower stairs (center foreground), noncontributing memorial marker (right foreground), camera facing northeast.

**Photo 0002:** West elevation, camera facing northeast.

**Photo 0003:** North elevation (left), west elevation (center and right), camera facing southeast.

**Photo 0004:** North elevation, camera facing southeast.

**Photo 0005:** East elevation (center), north elevation (right), camera facing southwest.

**Photo 0006:** South and east elevation (back center), noncontributing memorial marker and flagpole (off-center right foreground), camera facing northwest.

**Photo 0007:** Interior, First Floor, Lobby, camera facing west.

**Photo 0008:** Interior, First Floor, Library, camera facing northeast.

**Photo 0009:** Interior, First Floor, Oklahoma Room, camera facing southwest.

**Photo 0010:** Interior, First Floor, Kitchen, camera facing southwest.

**Photo 0011:** Interior, Second Floor, Grand Cross Room, camera facing north.

**Photo 0012:** Interior, Second Floor, Lobby and Trophy Room, camera facing southeast.

**Photo 0013:** Interior, Second Floor, Office with vault (left), camera facing northeast.

**Photo 0014:** Interior, Second Floor, Shipping and Storage Room, camera facing west.

**Photo 0015:** Interior, Second Floor, Lodge Room, camera facing south.

**Photo 0016:** Interior, Second Floor, Lodge Room, camera facing northwest.

International Temple, Supreme Assembly, Order of the Rainbow for Girls  
Name of Property

Pittsburg County, OK  
County and State

**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 100 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.

IROG, 315 E. Carl Albert Pkwy, McAlester, Pittsburg Co., Oklahoma





95°46'

95°45'45"

95°45'30"

**International Temple, Supreme Assembly, Order of the Rainbow for Girls  
 McAlester  
 Pittsburg County, Oklahoma**

34°56'15"

34°56'15"

34°56'

34°56'

34°55'45"

34°55'45"

15247475.0E, 3869048.0N

**Latitude: 34.932501  
 Longitude: -95.764706**

95°46'

95°45'45"

95°45'30"

Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Projection Zone: 15  
 North American Datum of 1983

1:6000 scale



Magnetic declination of 51.33 center of map  
 on March 17, 2011



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY International Temple, Supreme Assembly, Order of the Rainbow  
NAME: for Girls

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OKLAHOMA, Pittsburg

DATE RECEIVED: 5/03/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/30/13  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/14/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/19/13  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000393

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 6-14-13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





## Oklahoma Historical Society

Founded May 27, 1893

### State Historic Preservation Office

Oklahoma History Center • 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive • Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917  
(405) 521-6249 • Fax (405) 522-0816 • [www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoin.htm](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoin.htm)



April 29, 2013

Ms. Carol Shull  
Acting Keeper of the Register  
National Park Service 2280, 8th floor  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW  
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

We are pleased to transmit five National Register of Historic Places nominations for Oklahoma properties. The nominations are for the following properties:

Hotel Bell, 505 Barnes, Alva, Woods County  
Danholt, 1208 May Avenue, Guymon, Texas County  
International Temple, Supreme Assembly, Order of the Rainbow for Girls, 315 East Carl  
Albert Parkway, McAlester, Pittsburg County  
McGranahan Portion of the Chisholm Trail Roadbed, Yukon, Canadian County  
Mager Mortgage Company Building, 231 NW 10th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
County

The member of the Historic Preservation Review Committee (state review board), professionally qualified in the field of prehistoric archeology was absent from the public meeting at which each of these nominations was considered and the recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Officer was formulated. However, the member possessing the requisite professional qualifications for evaluation of each nominated property was present and participated in the recommendation's formulation.

We look forward to the results of your review. If there may be any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Lynda S. Ozan of my staff or myself.

Sincerely,

Melvena Heisch  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer

MKH:Iso

Enclosures