

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received DEC 17 1985
date entered JAN 16 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Masonic Building

and or common Same

2. Location

street & number Corner of 4th and Johnston N/A not for publication

city, town Alexandria N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 parish Rapides code 079
~~county~~

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Fourth and Johnston Partnership

street & number P. O. Box 5286

city, town Alexandria N/A vicinity of state LA 71307

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rapides Parish Courthouse

street & number 701 Murray Street P. O. Box 952

city, town Alexandria state LA 71301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Masonic Building (1927) is a four story, brick, neo-classical structure located in downtown Alexandria. Having been little altered since construction, it is in a good state of architectural integrity.

Except for a long stair and entrance hall in the rear, the entire ground story is given over to rental commercial space. The principal (second) story contains a large auditorium with a crude proscenium. There are also ancillary office and service spaces. There is a secondary auditorium on the third floor and two more of the same on the fourth floor. All are simply styled with non-sloping floors. Aside from the auditoriums, the upper two stories contain offices, waiting rooms and kitchens.

The building is significant for its styling on the Fourth and Johnston Street facades. The two are almost identical. Both feature an elegant piano nobile with the central three windows enclosed by pedimented frames and inscribed within round arches. The top story is encompassed by a deepened frieze with diapered brickwork in contrasting colors. The Johnston and Fourth Street facades also each feature a pair of diapered brick panels on the second level.

Assessment of Integrity

Since construction a few of the ceilings have been lowered and a temporary wall has been erected behind the main auditorium proscenium. In our opinion these changes should be regarded as minor.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1927 **Builder/Architect** Architect; Herman J. Duncan of Sam Stone, Jr., & Co.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion C

The Masonic Building is locally significant in the area of architecture as a landmark in downtown Alexandria. The Louisiana Comprehensive Historic Structures Survey has identified 131 fifty plus year old commercial buildings in the Alexandria Central Business District. Of these, over half are one story high and over a third are two stories high. The Masonic Building is one of only four examples which are four stories or higher. More importantly, in contrast to the low-key commercial "vernacular" which predominates in the area, the Masonic Building is impressively articulated with elegant, almost Regency styling. This can be seen in its proportions, its use of arches and pediments, and in its overall subtlety and restraint.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1927 Cornerstone,
Alexandria Daily Town Talk, November 28, 1927 (article on dedication of building),
 Historic Structures Survey, Rapides Parish,

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 1/4th of an acre

Quadrangle name Alexandria, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	5	5	2	8	2	0	3	4	6	3	9	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to enclosed property plat map. Boundaries follow property lines.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	National Register Staff Division of Historic Preservation	ASSISTED BY OWNER
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organization	State of Louisiana	date	October 1985
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street & number	P. O. Box 44247	telephone	(504) 922-0358
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city or town	Baton Rouge	state	LA 70804
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12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

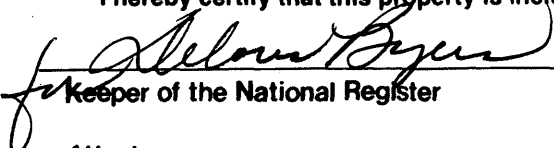
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Robert B. DeBlieux

title	State Historic Preservation Officer	date	December 10, 1985
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For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register


 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
 National Register

date 1-16-86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY

ALEXANDRIA, LA.

1108-296

AUGUST 10, 1983

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE MADE THE SURVEY SHOWN HEREON BY SHADED LINES AND THAT THIS PLAT IS A TRUE AND CORRECT REPRESENTATION THEREOF.

SCALE 1" = 20'

CE MAGUIRE INC.

FOR MICHAEL S. TUDOR
MASONIC BUILDING

CONSULTING ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS

By James Delhomme

PART OF LOT 2 OF BLOCK 29 (OLD TOWN) CITY
OF ALEXANDRIA, RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA

FOURTH ST. 53.33' R/W
(N 45° 35' W)

