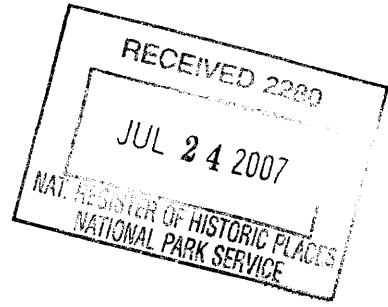


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 A.F. & A.M.

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 112 North 7th Street not for publication N/A

city or town Tonkawa vicinity N/A

state Oklahoma code OK county Kay code 071

zip code 74653

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (N/A See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Bob Leuker
Signature of certifying official

7-23-07
Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register _____

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the _____
National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the _____
National Register

removed from the National Register _____

other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

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>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

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

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: SOCIAL Sub: meeting hall

Sub: _____

Sub: _____

Sub: _____

Sub: _____

Sub: _____

Sub: _____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: SOCIAL Sub: meeting hall

Sub: _____

Sub: _____

Sub: _____

Sub: _____

Sub: _____

Sub: _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
roof CERAMIC TILE
walls BRICK
 STONE:limestone
other _____

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

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

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

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1924-1925

=====
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)
=====

Significant Dates _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation _____
N/A

Architect/Builder _____
Hawk and Parr, architects

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

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

___ previously listed in the National Register

___ previously determined eligible by the National Register

___ designated a National Historic Landmark

___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

___ Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other

Name of repository: _____

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property Less than One Acre

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

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>14</u>	<u>651210</u>	<u>4060400</u>	
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Cynthia Savage, Architectural Historian, for Preservation Oklahoma, Incorporated

organization Architectural Resources and Community Heritage Consulting date April 2007

street & number 346 County Road 1230 telephone 405/459-6200

city or town Pocasset state OK zip code 73079

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

- Maps
- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 - A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name Tonkawa Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 157

street & number 112 N. 7th Street telephone _____

city or town Tonkawa state OK zip code 74653

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Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 A.F. & A.M.
name of property
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SUMMARY

The Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 A.F. & A.M. is a red brick, two-story building with a basement. Constructed in 1924-1925 when the town was in the midst of a major economic boom, the striking building was designed by the notable Oklahoma City architectural firm of Hawk and Parr. The Classical Revival style building has a concrete foundation and a ceramic tile, hipped roof. Typical of Masonic architecture, the building was designed in the form of a Tau cross, or T-shaped. The shorter cross member is only one floor high above the basement, creating a U-shaped balcony area on the front of the first floor that was originally intended to be a roof garden. Below the balcony, centrally located on the facade, is the above-grade single entry which consists of a nonhistoric, aluminum, glazed slab door with full-height, aluminum, fixed sidelights and an aluminum, fixed, transom. Topping the nonhistoric transom is the historic, wood-framed, leaded glass, fanlight. The building also has two basement entrances, one located just to the south of the main entry on the facade and one on the back of the building. The front basement door is wood, paneled and the rear door is wood, slab.

The building's historic, hung, wood windows are a combination of six-over-six, eight-over-eight and four-over-four. On the building sides, the eight-over-eight windows are topped by four-light, wood, transoms. The majority of windows have metal screens. Most of the windows in the front, one-story section of the building have narrow stone surrounds that sit on tall stone bases that extend from the sill to the limestone water table marking the top of the basement level. In the two-story above a basement portion of the building, the first and second floor windows have narrow stone sills and the basement windows have narrow, closer brick sills. Architectural features include three red brick chimneys of varying dimensions, the stone balustrade around the balcony and an above-grade, uncovered, partial, front porch. Ornamental details include decorative stone tables above two of the facade windows, a richly ornamented stone surround on the front entry, an ornamental stone table in the center of the balcony railing, broad wood eaves decorated with double wood brackets and a marble cornerstone on the northwest corner of the building.

The building retains an excellent degree of interior integrity and a good degree of integrity on the exterior. The lodge's interior maintains its original configuration as well as original light fixtures, wall and floor finishes and decorative elements. The most notable alteration to the outside of the building are the changes to the front entry and partial porch. The original wood, double door was replaced in the 1970s and the porch reconstructed with a metal railing notably replacing the original stone balustrade at an unknown date. Other modifications to the exterior include the construction of an enclosed, blond brick, basement vestibule on the southwest side of the partial porch around mid-century. While the alterations to the entry and porch diminishes the integrity of the building's design, they do not have an overwhelming impact. Overall, the exterior remains eminently able to convey the building's historic architectural significance.

The lodge remains in its historic commercial setting on the north edge of downtown Tonkawa. The building is

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located on North 7th Street, less than half of a block north of East Grand Avenue, the primary east-west commercial thoroughfare in Tonkawa since the town's founding. The Masonic lodge is flanked on both sides by smaller, one-story, commercial buildings. The buildings to the immediate south are historic, brick, Commercial style buildings with the north building being a modern, brick building with a drive-thru. Directly across the street to the west are the long, rectangular, lumberyard buildings that have characterized the site since the mid-1920s. Unlike the other commercial buildings in the immediate area, the lodge has a grassy strip between the building and the north-south sidewalk that traverses the block. Parallel to each corner of the building, a curved walk extends from the sidewalk to the building's partial porch. Long rectangular strips of grass also stretch back along both sides of the building.

In the block to the north of the Masonic building is the historic, WPA-built, stone, Public Library building. When the lodge was constructed, Block 18, on which the Masonic building is situated, and Block 7, where the library is now located, were joined. As such, the lodge was located less than half a block south of the town's public school which, from Tonkawa's earliest days, had been located on North 7th Street at East Tonkawa Avenue. The construction of an addition onto the two-story school building probably in the late teens resulted in the closing of East Tonkawa Avenue and the joining of Blocks 18 and 7. By 1925, the school plant was enlarged by four, additional, rectangular, classroom buildings. The construction of the library in about 1935, combined with the relocation of the school, allowed East Tonkawa Avenue to be re-opened and returned Block 18 to its original dimensions.

The building remains in use by the local Masonic organizations. Due to a declining membership, the lodge is suffering from benign neglect, evidenced on the exterior by peeling paint. The ceramic tile roof is also apparently in need of repair, resulting in water damage to some interior spaces. For these reasons, the building was included on the 2006 Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places list, sponsored by Preservation Oklahoma Inc.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 A.F. & A.M. is a two-story, Classical Revival style building with a full basement. The walls are predominately red brick, laid in a stretcher bond, with a concrete foundation that increases in visibility towards the east side. The brick portion of the building is ornamented by a soldier brick water table and, immediately above the concrete foundation, a course of soldier bricks broken by the closer brick sills of the basement windows. The commodious building is T-shaped with the front, cross section being just one-story above the basement. Around the basement level of the one-story, front section, the walls are a contrasting limestone. The one-story portion, creating an outside balcony off the second floor lobby, has a flat, built-up roof. The larger, rectangular, two-story back portion has a hipped roof clad with red, ceramic tiles. The hipped section of the roof has broad, wooden eaves ornamented with decorative, double, wood brackets. All of the woodwork along the roof and the concrete upper wall are painted white to contrast with the red brick. Along the hipped roof on each elevation but the front are brick chimneys of differing heights and widths. Additionally, there are several, large, metal vents on the ceramic tile roof

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Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 A.F. & A.M.
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which are not readily visible due to the height of the building and vicinity of the other nearby buildings (see photograph 7).

The symmetrical west elevation of the building fronts onto North 7th Street (see photographs 1, 2 and 9). The main west wall of the building, consisting of the one-story front section, is divided into three bays. The large center bay, containing the main entrance, two windows and the partial porch, is flanked on both sides by projected bays which are each about half the width of the middle section. Above the one-story section and set back to allow for a roof garden area is the secondary west wall. Befitting the Classical Revival style of the building, as well as its Masonic purpose, the front one-story section is clad with different materials that combined create the classical order. The lower portion of the wall is clad in limestone, forming the base of the style's omnipresent column. Separated by a limestone water table, the middle section of wall, or column shaft, is red brick, laid in a stretcher bond. The entablature is formed by the limestone band which wraps around the upper one-story wall. The entablature is topped by the limestone balustrade that encircles the first floor balcony. Also typical of the style and representative of the building's Masonic function, are the elaborate, limestone surround around the entry, the simpler limestone window surrounds and the two limestone panels above the outside windows. The entry surround is ornamented with wreaths, vases, birds and leaves, among other designs. Directly above the door is the traditional Masonic symbol of a G set within a quadrilateral formed by a compass over a square. The compass and square, tools of the stonemasons upon which Freemasonry is derived, are principal symbols of Masonry, as is the G which is representative of God and/or geometry, also fundamental elements of the organization. The surround is arched to allow for the wood-framed, leaded glass fanlight above the door. The surround and fanlight are original to the building. Beneath the fanlight is a nonhistoric, aluminum, glazed slab door with matching full-height sidelights and a transom window. In the transom window there is a signage which reads "Tonkawa/Lodge/No. 157/A.F.& A.M." The modern door was reportedly installed in the 1970s. The original door was double, wood, paneled.

To either side of the door on the first floor of the west wall's large center section are single, six-over-six, hung, wood windows. The windows are embellished by the narrow limestone surround. The sill of the surround is projected. Below each of these windows in the limestone-clad portion of wall is a basement-level window. These windows are two-over-two, wood, hung with limestone sills. In each of the flanking, projected, side bays of the facade on the first floor, are large, single, eight-over-eight, hung, wood windows. The surrounds on these windows are similar to the other front windows, except below the projected sill is an expanse of equal-width limestone that extends to the limestone water table separating the basement level from the first floor. Above each of the outside first floor windows only is also a stone panel ornamented with Masonic-inspired serpents, urns and a large swag.

On the north corner of the west elevation, just above the water table is a black granite cornerstone (see photograph 9). The front of the cornerstone reads "M.W. Grand Lodge of/Oklahoma/A.F. and A.M./A.L. 5924/Henry S. Johnston/Grand Master." In the center of the cornerstone is the Masonic emblem identical to that on the surround

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Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 A.F. & A.M.
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above the entry. The north side of the cornerstone reads “Tonkawa Lodge No. 157/Building Assn./Trustees:/Ralph E. Patterson. Pres./Fred French. Vpres./Ray See. Treas./John N. Starr. Secy./John D. Frederick. Mbr./John A. Jones Mbr.”

Extending from the center of the facade is an above grade, partial, concrete porch (see photographs 1, 2 and 9). With stairs on both sides, the porch has a central, uncovered landing. The porch has been rebuilt at an unknown time. While the existing porch is similar to the original, the majority of existing piers are not visibly paneled and the piers and porch wall are whitewashed. Additionally, the historic balustrade on both sides of the porch, which originally matched the balustrade on the first floor balcony, has been replaced by a plain, double, metal, pipe railing. The two pilasters projecting from the entry surround are historic and reflect the original paneled design of the piers. The two tall, historic, metal light fixtures that set on the outside porch piers have also been removed. Although the exact reason for the porch modifications are unknown, it was probably changed for life safety issues with the double metal railing providing a less decorative but more stable, possibly higher, support for accessing the building.

Off the front, center of the porch, at grade level, is a metal pole sign. Hanging from the pole is a round, metal sign with the Masonic symbol of a compass and a square forming a quadrilateral containing a capital “g”. Located on the south side of the porch, between the main wall and east porch wall, is an enclosed, brick, basement entry. The entry was added in the 1950s to facilitate access to the basement level of the building which was used for various public functions. The entry is of yellow brick with a flat concrete roof. Extending from the roof is a short, metal overhang which shelters the single, wood, paneled, basement door. The changes to the porch and the addition of the enclosed basement entry are the most notable changes to the eight-two year old building. Because the porch retains its basic configuration, including both sets of stairs, and the enclosed entry barely rises above the porch level, the alteration to the building’s historic design is not overwhelming.

Over the limestone-clad first floor coping is the limestone balustrade that encircles the exterior balcony, optimistically described as a roof garden when the building was built (see photographs 1, 2 and 9). In the center of the balustrade, located directly above the main door, is a large, stone table. With scrolls to either side, the top of the table is ornamented with a large turtle. The turtle is probably not original as the slab it rests upon protrudes over both the front and back of the table. According to one source, in a Masonic context, turtles represent conjugal affection and constancy.¹ Beneath the turtle, in the main section of the table is an inscription which reads “Let There Be Light.” According to the Masonic tradition, light is a symbol of knowledge which every Mason should strive unceasingly for.

¹James Stevens Curl, The Art and Architecture of Freemasonry, (London: B.T. Batsford, 2002), 246.

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Above the first floor balcony, the second floor's west wall contains four windows spaced towards the center of the wall (see photograph 2). The matching windows are eight-over-eight, hung, wood with four-light wood transoms. Each window has a stone sill which rests just above the first floor flat roof. Just three rows of bricks above the windows, the upper wall is clad with a wide strip of concrete, painted white. Above this, the wood eaves are ornamented by a symmetrical placing of double, wood brackets. Both the eaves and brackets are painted white. Along the edge of the eaves is a plain, unpainted, metal gutter. The red ceramic tile roof sweeps upward from there.

The front, one-story section of the building wraps around both of the side elevations (see photographs 2, 3, 8 and 9). The two side projections are nearly identical. The contrasting wall pattern of red brick between stone is maintained on the side walls of the projection but not the back walls. Correspondingly, the stone balustrade around the first floor balcony wraps slightly around the east wall of the projections but then becomes brick topped by a stone coping along the back wall. On each side elevation, there are three first floor windows above two basement windows. The eight-over-eight, hung, wood, first floor windows have the identical surrounds that extend to the water table as the outside, first floor, facade windows. The basement windows, symmetrically located under each of the outside first floor windows, are four-over-four, wood, hung. The basement windows do not match the facade basement windows but are identical to the basement windows in the main section of the building. On the back of each side of the one-story section, there is a single, eight-over-eight, hung, wood window directly above a basement-level, four-over-four, wood, hung window. As with the side windows farther to the west, the first floor windows have a narrow stone sill and the basement windows have a narrow, closer brick sill. On each side, the basement and first floor windows are unevenly separated horizontally by a slightly projected row of soldier bricks which serves as the water table for this portion of the building. Between the windows and the wraparound edges of the front stone elements on both sides is a metal drain spout. Differentiating the two back sides of the one-story section is the electrical wires and boxes located just to the south of the north side's windows.

Not readily visible on the west corner of the second floor's south elevation is the single doorway that provides access to the first floor balcony (see photographs 3-5). The wood slab door has a nonhistoric, aluminum, glazed slab, storm door. The entry is topped by an historic, undivided, wood transom. Just to the east of the door on the roof is a rectangular, brick, interior, slope chimney with stone corbeling. As on the front of the building, the south wall has a concrete coping and wood eaves. The eaves are ornamented with evenly spaced, double, wood brackets. Moving east along the south wall, the first windows east of the one-story projection provide light to the interior staircase. As such, the westernmost windows are smaller than the other windows on the wall. Additionally, the second floor westernmost window is located mid-way between the first and second floors. The much shorter first floor window has a sill that is level with the other first floor windows but the top of the window reaches a level just above half the height of the other windows. The basement window is the same height as the other basement windows but is not as wide. The large second floor window is six-over-six, wood, hung. The smaller first floor window is wood, four-over-four, hung and the basement window is wood, two-over-two, hung.

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Separating the westernmost windows from the other windows on the south elevation is a metal drain spout which extends from the edge of the roof to the ground. East of the drain spout, the south elevation is divided into four equal sections by narrow, brick pilasters. The pilasters, with stone accents and tops extend from the concrete foundation to just above the second floor window sill height. A row of soldier bricks with stone corners maintains the differentiated brickwork of the water table, at which point the pilasters narrow as they extend upwards. The base of the pilasters are also ornamented with a band of soldier bricks flanked by three rows of bricks laid in the matching stretcher bond to the rest of the wall. Within each of the four sections of the south wall, there are two symmetrical windows on each floor. With the single exception of the westernmost second floor window, all of the first and second floor, wood, hung, eight-over-eight windows are matching with four-light, wood, transom windows. The westernmost window is also eight-over-eight, hung, wood with a four-pane, wood transom; however, the window is slightly shorter than the other windows. All of the first and second floor windows have narrow stone sills. The basement windows are all four-over-four, wood, hung with closer brick sills. Towards the back of the south elevation, the concrete foundation becomes increasingly visible with a noticeable drop in grade on the east corner of the wall.

The narrow east elevation of the Masonic Lodge has an off-center, exterior, brick chimney (see photographs 4-6). Located just to the south of the chimney and extending from the edge of the roof to near the ground is a metal drain spout. As on the other elevation, the wooden eaves of the roof are decorated with evenly spaced, double, wood brackets. The symmetrical fenestration pattern consists of two openings per floor. The first and second floor windows are eight-over-eight, hung, wood with wood, four-pane transoms. The soldier brick water table visually divides the first floor from the basement. At the basement level, the north opening is a four-over-four, hung, wood window matching the majority of other basement windows. The south opening is a single, wood, slab door. Due to the difference in grade between the front and back of the building, the top of the door is actually set lower than the tops of the basement windows. A good portion of the concrete foundation is also visible.

The north elevation is very similar to the south wall with matching decorative detail, comparable architectural features and a symmetrical fenestration pattern (see photographs 6-8). The main portion of the wall is divided by brick pilasters into four sections. Within the four bays, the majority of second floor windows are identically-sized, eight-over-eight, hung, wood windows with wood, four-light transoms. The west window in the west bay has a smaller, eight-over-eight, wood, hung window with a larger, four-by-four, wood transom. The transom sill is also wider than on the other windows. On the first floor, the easternmost set of windows are slightly shorter than the other first floor windows and are one-over-one, wood, hung with four-light, wood transoms. The other first floor windows are matching, eight-over-eight, hung, wood with wood, four-light transoms. All of the basement windows in the four bays are four-over-four, wood, hung. The bottom panes in the west window in the second bay from the east corner has been replaced by a window air conditioning unit with the remaining area boarded over. As on the south wall, a metal, roof-to-ground, drain spout divides the main portion of the wall from the smaller westernmost windows. On both the first and second floor, the westernmost windows are small, four-over-four, wood, hung windows. On both

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floors, the limestone sills of the smaller windows are set at the same level as the other windows to the east. The basement window is obscured by a large bush. Just to the west of the small windows is the building's third chimney. This square, brick, exterior chimney projects away from the main wall adjacent to the one-story, front projection before piercing the wood eave. The tall chimney is ornamented by stone corbeling similar to the other chimneys.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 A.F. & A.M. retains a high degree of historic integrity. In addition to maintaining its historic spaces and configuration, the building possesses original wall and floor finishes, wood doors with transoms, light fixtures, hardware and wood trim. The light fixtures are especially striking for their decorative elaborance.

The first floor contains a rectangular lobby with a tiled floor, two chandeliers and numerous wall sconces (see photographs 10 and 11). On the north side of the lobby is the Ladies Reception Room (see photograph 12) with the corresponding men's lounge to the south of the lobby. The main portion of the first floor is devoted to the Eastern Star/DeMolay/Rainbow Girls Auditorium (see photograph 13).

The second floor also has a large lobby with a tiled floor (see photograph 14). In the center of the floor is a large circle with the Masonic emblem of a G in the center of a quadrilateral formed by the compass and square (see photograph 15). The Lodge Room retains its historic paneled ceiling with numerous multi-colored lights in working order (see photograph 16). Although a modern vent has displaced the first row of seating, the interior balcony above the Lodge Room still contains the theater-style seats ornamented with the Masonic emblem on the sides.

The basement reflects the Egyptian influence of the Masonic organization (see photographs 17 and 18). The large, main, rectangular, dining room features several vividly-colored columns and light fixtures, as well as a practical limonum floor. The kitchen on the far east side is also good sized with many historic elements, including a full set of original Masonic china. The boiler room also contains to house the building's original systems.

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS

The Masonic building maintains a good degree of historic integrity on the exterior. There have been no additions and few modifications to the building. The most notable alterations are the modifications to the front porch, including the changes in the railing, and construction of the brick, enclosed, basement vestibule. Importantly, the porch retains its original design of two sets of stairs and a central landing. The replacement of the stone balustrade with the double metal railing and the changes to the piers and porch wall, including the white washing, are discernible; however, the porch alterations themselves have only a minor impact on the building's overall integrity of design. Due to the

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contrasting blonde brick of the basement entry, the nonoriginal feature is easily distinguished. Just slightly taller than the basement level of the facade, however, the vestibule does not drastically interfere with the building's ability to convey its significance. Other changes to the exterior of the building include the replacement of the original, wood, double, paneled door with a modern, aluminum, glazed, slab door, sidelights and transom. Notably, the historic, leaded glass, wood-framed fanlight remains in place and the door modification did not impact the rich, historic, limestone surround. Overall, the building exhibits the characteristics of historic location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association and readily conveys the building's significance within the community.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 A.F. & A.M. is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a landmark, Classical Revival style, lodge building in Tonkawa. Located on the north edge of the town's central business district, the building was an impressive addition to the town in 1925. It remains a distinctive, Classical Revival style resource that reflects a significant Masonic influence and is without equal in the community. Built during Tonkawa's oil boom days, the building was designed by the prominent Oklahoma City architectural firm of Hawk and Parr. Working statewide between 1914 and 1932, the architects' design of the Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 A.F. & A.M. is noteworthy as an example of their work on buildings of this type.

BACKGROUND

On September 16, 1893, the Cherokee Outlet, a 9,000-square mile tract of land in what is now northwest Oklahoma, opened to homesteaders. The "strip" was comprised of the "surplus" lands of the Cherokee, Tonkawa and Pawnee tribes. During the land run, two Kansas farmers, Eli V. Blake and Wiley William Gregory, laid claim to two quarter sections in "K" County, Oklahoma Territory. Soon after filing their claims with the federal land office, Blake and Gregory determined to organize a townsite on their adjoining land. In addition to having two rivers in the vicinity, the proposed townsite was surrounded by prime agricultural lands on which over 1,100 people were living by February 1894.²

Partnering with Thomas H. Martin, the two farmers formed the Oklahoma Townsite Company to market the new town. Divided by the half section line, Blake contributed 74 acres on the west side and Gregory provided 127 acres to the east. Naming their new community "Tonkawa" after the Tonkawa tribe which had a reservation three miles east, the Oklahoma Townsite Company employed J. Elmer Chapson, surveyor, to plat the town in mid-March 1894. At the heart of the town, Chapson laid out a 100-foot east-west thoroughfare named Grand Avenue. Along the half section line between the claims, Chapson platted an 80-foot north-south road which was designated as Main Street. Just days before Chapson started his work, the federal government authorized the Tonkawa Post Office with Eli Blake named as postmaster.³

²William P. Corbett, Ph.D., "Peerless Princess of the Best Country: The Early Years of Tonkawa," reprinted from The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Volume LXIII, No. 4 (Winter 1984-1985), 389-390.

³*Ibid.*, 390-391.

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Predominately an agricultural community, Tonkawa struggled along with its neighboring farmers during the mid-1890s. By 1899, increased rainfall, improved prices and a new rail line spurred the town to new developments. An event of lasting import for the town was the selection of Tonkawa as site of the University Preparatory School in 1901 by the territorial government. Formally opened in 1902, the school continues to function to the present time, currently as the Northern Oklahoma College. With the added appellation of "college town," Tonkawa enjoyed a quiet prosperity and fairly steady growth for the next two decades.⁴

The "Roaring Twenties" proved to be of particular accuracy for Tonkawa as the discovery of oil set off a major boom for the town that had a pre-oil population of just 2,800. In 1921, the first oil well in the Tonkawa Field was brought in by the Marland Refining Company of Ponca City. Within a short time, "...the little town of Tonkawa was on the lips of thousands and thousands of people throughout the country." The field was particularly remarkable because of its geological formation which allowed crude to be produced from fourteen different oil-bearing horizons. The most abundant sands were the Upper Hoover, Lower Hoover and Tonkawa, contributing to the popular designation of the field as Three Sands. By early 1923, the town was reclassified as a first-class city with a population of 12,000. However, production in the field peaked that same year and, beginning in 1926, began to fall rapidly. Although relatively short lived, the boom immediately resulted in new houses and businesses springing up throughout the community. These prosperous times also called for improvement in the accommodations for the town's social organizations.⁵

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

On February 13, 1901, the Grand Lodge of the Territory of Oklahoma granted a charter to the Tonkawa Lodge No. 57. Three months later, with capital stock in the amount of \$1,500, the lodge obtained a patent from the territorial government in the names of U.E. Thomas, W.L. Stalnaker and R.J. Devore. Using the money represented in the capital stock, the organization "built" a lodge room on the second floor of the building located on the northwest corner of Seventh Street and Grand Avenue. The Tonkawa Masons continued to use this lodge for more than twenty years. Following statehood in 1907, the Grand Lodges of the twin territories were amalgamated into the Oklahoma Grand Lodge. In February 1909, the Tonkawa Masonic organization, with a membership of seventy, was granted state

⁴Ibid., 399.

⁵The Tonkawa (Oklahoma) News, 5 June 1924. See also The Daily Oklahoman, 26 February 1922, 11 October 1922 and 4 May 1923, and John W. Morris, ed., Drill Bits, Picks, and Shovels: A History of Mineral Resources in Oklahoma, (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1982), 27-28.

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charter No. 157.⁶

Notably, the Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 was a Blue Lodge. Basically this meant that the lodge conferred only the first three degrees of Masonry, the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft and the Master Mason. The first three degrees formed the foundation of Freemasonry and, therefore, are common to every Masonic lodge. Other Masonic organizations, including the Scottish Rite and York Rite, are appendant bodies which confer additional degrees. Promotion among the degrees was granted upon learning a body of work which varied from lodge to lodge. Advancement, however, was not accomplished lightly. In November 1924, fourteen members of the Tonkawa lodge sought elevation to the third degree. With the first candidates "...put through" on Friday morning, the "...last member of the class was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason" at 5:30 the following morning. With twenty-four different lodges represented during the proceedings, "There were not so many brethren present (at the conclusion) as there were earlier in the session."⁷

The year after the Tonkawa Lodge No. 57 was chartered, the women of the community organized the Tonkawa Chapter No. 95 Eastern Star in 1902. Founded with twenty-five charter members, the group numbered around three hundred in 1925. In 1922, the Oklahoma City Chapter of DeMolays initiated a local DeMolay chapter at the school auditorium for the young men of the town. Founded in only 1919, the Order of DeMolay was named for the last leader of the Knights Templar, Jacques DeMolay. To provide an organization for girls from Masonic homes, William Mark Sexson founded the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls in 1922. That same year, the Tonkawa Rainbow Assembly No. 45 was organized by the Rainbow assembly at Blackwell. More closely aligned to Freemasonry than the DeMolay, the Rainbow Girls group at Tonkawa was sponsored by the Tonkawa Masons and Eastern Star.⁸

With "The idea of building a Masonic Temple for Tonkawa...on the hearts and minds of several for some time," the Masons began working on earnest on the building plans by late April 1924. At first, the building plans were "...comparatively modest..." but as the members "...visited other temples erected to the work of Masonry (their ideas) became more extensive in their scope." The lodge also decided to add facilities for their counterpart organizations,

⁶The Tonkawa News, 25 June 1925.

⁷Ibid., 20 November 1924.

⁸Ibid., 25 June 1925. See also "What is DeMolay?," DeMolay International, <http://www.demolay.org/whatis>, retrieved 16 May 2007, and "History," The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, http://www.iorg.org/organization_history.htm, retrieved 16 May 2007.

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the Eastern Star, the DeMolay and the Rainbow Girls.⁹

The site of the new building was given considerable thought with some members wanting it away from the distractions of the central business district and others wanting to continue the tradition of the lodge sharing a downtown building with income-producing enterprises. Finally, the site was located so the Masonic-only building would front onto North 7th Street, not far from Grand Avenue. In addition to being next door to the newspaper, the auspicious site was three doors north of the post office and the first building south of the town school. According to the local newspaper, the lots on which the building stands were part of the school grounds. In order to secure their desired site, the Masons purchased eight lots on the north side of the school and traded these for the three lots on the south side.¹⁰

Originally estimated to cost \$75,000, the building's final price was "...in the neighborhood of \$100,000." To finance the construction, the lodge sold twenty-year 5 percent bonds. All of the bonds were purchased by local members. When "...sufficient bonds had been sold to guarantee the financing of the project," the lodge engaged the architectural services of Hawk and Parr of Oklahoma City. One of the preeminent architectural firms in the state, Hawk and Parr were then also engaged in the construction of the grand Scottish Rite Temple (NR Listed 1987) in Guthrie, Oklahoma, purportedly the largest Masonic temple on earth. Hawk and Parr formed their partnership in about 1914 and continued to practice together until Hawk retired in 1932. Previous to joining with Parr, James Watson Hawk was a partner in the acclaimed firm of Lawton, Wemyss-Smith and Hawk. In addition to being named the architect for the Oklahoma state capitol building in 1910, this firm designed many buildings of note in Oklahoma City, including the Baum Building, Oklahoman Building, American National Bank Building, Majestic Building, Sturms' Magazine Building, Insurance Building, High Street School, Oklahoma City High School and Culbertson School, among many others. Born on March 26, 1864, in Kenton, Ohio, Hawk came to Oklahoma in about 1899 from Saint Joseph, Missouri. Apparently, Hawk did not attend a formal architecture school but he had "...had careful training and experience of great value in modern building." By 1907, it was estimated Hawk was the "...designer of 80 percent of the largest and best constructed buildings in the city devoted to business, as well as many of the best designed and most expensive home in the city." One of his first contracts, shortly after arriving in Oklahoma Territory, was for the \$40,000 Epworth University Building.¹¹

⁹Ibid., 25 June 1925 and 24 April 1924.

¹⁰Ibid., 25 June 1925.

¹¹The Daily Oklahoman, (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma), 10 March 1907 and 22 December 1947.

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Josephus Overton Parr moved his architectural practice with Edgar Smith from McAlester to Oklahoma City in about 1910. Before and after this, the firm of Smith and Parr designed a number of school buildings throughout the state, including the Administration Building at the Oklahoma College for Women in Chickasha (OCW Historic District NR Listed 2001). Within Oklahoma City, the firm designed the Administration Building for the Oklahoma City College for Young Ladies and the campus for the St. Joseph's Industrial School, among other projects. The firm also worked outside Oklahoma, being responsible for the 1912 design of the Carnegie Library in Winfield, Kansas, the commission coming after inspection of the firm's First Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City by the library's building committee.¹²

The alliance of Hawk and Parr in 1914 is notable as the firm quickly became one of the most distinguished architectural practices in the state. In 1915, the firm was responsible for the design of the \$100,000 courthouse in Perry, as well as the plans and specifications for the new Science Hall at the University of Oklahoma, located in Norman. By 1917, the practice was at work on the YMCA Building on West Second Street in Oklahoma City, as well as a school in Custer County. The following year, bids were advertised for construction of the firm's school buildings at Alex and Luther and the First Presbyterian Church of Hugo. In 1919, Hawk and Parr designed the \$150,000 high school at Henryetta, the \$20,000 school in Fletcher and the \$25,000 First Christian Church of Fairfax, as well as the ten-story, \$300,000 Tradesman State Bank (NR Listed 1980), \$35,000 Grace Methodist Episcopal Church and the \$200,000 Magnolia Petroleum Building (NR Listed 1979), all in Oklahoma City.¹³

The 1920s continued development of Hawk and Parr's wide body of work. During 1920, the firm worked on two buildings in Miami, both at the School of Mines, plus two buildings nearly across the state in Altus, this time a municipal hospital and a combined memorial auditorium and community building. The early 1920s also brought the commission for the \$3,000,000 Scottish Rite Temple in Guthrie, as well as the Oklahoma Club building and Farmer National Bank building in Oklahoma City. By the mid-1920s and in addition to the Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 A.F. & A.M., Hawk and Parr were at work on the Immanuel Baptist Church, the twelve-story Perrine Building and a five-story addition to the Shops Building. The practice's popularity continued through the latter 1920s and early 1930s with the pair working in Oklahoma City on the Wesley Hospital Addition, the \$700,000 YWCA Building, the \$65,000 Sunbeam Home Residence, the over \$4.5 million Biltmore Hotel and the Stonewall Jackson Junior High in Capitol Hill, as well as the Oklahoma National Bank Building in Duncan.¹⁴

¹²Ibid., 16 November 1910, 28 January 1912 and 4 February 1912.

¹³Ibid., various dates 1911-1920.

¹⁴Ibid., various dates 1921-1930.

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The last commission the firm received was for eighteen buildings at the federal penitentiary in El Reno. The partnership of Hawk and Parr dissolved in 1932 upon Hawk's retirement from architectural practice. Parr continued to operate his own firm until his death in 1940. Hawk passed away seven years later, having moved to Arkansas and Louisiana after his retirement before returning to Oklahoma City. At the start of World War II, Hawk moved to Guthrie to the Masonic Home which he designed years before.¹⁵

In the design of the Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 A.F. & A.M., Hawk and Parr worked with the local Mason's building committee. Initially composed of Ralph Patterson, Fred French, John N. Starr, Rav See, J.T. Robison and John D. Frederick, the majority of the board were also the organization's officers at some point in the project. Patterson was the president, French the vice president, See the treasurer and Starr the secretary. Moving to Arizona, member J.T. Robison was replaced by Dr. J.A. Jones. With Hawk and Parr drawing "...the plans and specifications along the lines of the suggestions of the building committee and Joe Morris, acting secretary," the Masons "...decided to commence work right away" on the two-story building with a full basement. Local contractor Joe Head was quickly "...employed to look after the details of construction." Although some elements remain to be worked out, by late April 1924, the site, the form of a Tau cross, and size of the building had been determined.¹⁶

At the end of May 1924, the foundation for the building was being run. Placing this event into a broader Masonic context, the newspaper noted that the building of the foundation was "...being made a matter of much concern that it be of the best and that it be sufficiently deep, and wide, and strong to support for generations a building which will stand as a monument to the faith of those who made its erection possible." Continuing in this line of thinking, the foundation was also imbued with....

the hope that it will be of benefit to the community, as well as a source of pleasure and gratification to the members of the craft. To be builders is the desire of all good men, whether they be Masons or not. In fact, there are many men who are Masons at heart, although they may not be actual members of the order. By building, they do not mean alone the structure of wood, and brick, and stone, but rather that "house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens." They strive to build character, as that is the cardinal principle and foundation upon which they hope to build the superstructure of a righteous life.

¹⁵Ibid., 29 January 1940 and 22 December 1947.

¹⁶The Tonkawa News, 25 June 1925 and 24 April 1924. See also The Daily Oklahoman, 30 April 1925.

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In sum, in the construction of the lodge and particularly its strong foundation, the Masons were "...demonstrating in this building dedicated to Ancient Craft Masonry the thought of looking well to the foundation."¹⁷

As the summer of 1924 progressed, so did work on the Masonic temple. At the beginning of July, the building was taking form with the brick masons at work. Causing some distress, "The stones that were hewed and numbered in the quarries did not fit with as exact nicety as those of the temple of Solomon." However, a skilled stone mason arrived on-site to make some alterations and all was deemed well. The cornerstone laying occurred on July 21, 1924 with great fanfare. A variety of coins, business cards and other materials were deposited below the cornerstone. After the stone was set, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden and the Junior Grand Warden respectively checked the cornerstone with a square, plumb and level. After the three reported "...that the stone was square, plumb and level, and that the craftsmen had faithfully performed their labor," the Acting Grand Master struck the cornerstone with a gavel three times and pronounced it ready for consecration. At that time, a vessel of corn, which may actually have been wheat befitting of Tonkawa's location in the heart of the wheat belt, was "...scattered upon the stone as an emblem of plenty." This was followed by the pouring of a vessel of wine on the stone "...as an emblem of joy and gladness." Finally, a vessel of oil was decanted on the cornerstone "...as an emblem of peace." Thus, it was declared "...that the cornerstone had been laid in accordance with the ancient customs of the craft."¹⁸

At the start of September 1924, the outer walls of the building had been erected and work was progressing on the roof. The stonework apparently remained problematic as it was noted that the "Stone work (sic) on the front of the building is being delayed pending the arrival of material." Also of special interest was the roof garden which was designed "...in connection with the lodge rooms on the third floor." Although news of the building faded over the next several months, by mid-November 1924, it was anticipated that the new temple would be "...completed soon after the first of the year..." so the 265 members could "...be taken care of to better advantage."¹⁹

Although not meeting expectations, in mid-January 1925, work on the building was "...in the hands of plasterers..." with plans for a spring dedication. Finally, in the middle of April 1925, the Masons moved into their new building. The first regular Masonic meeting was scheduled for April 20, 1925 with the dedication to occur at a later unspecified date. As described in a photograph caption in the state's daily newspaper, the building was "...virtually complete"

¹⁷Ibid., 29 May 1924.

¹⁸Ibid., 3 July 1924, 17 July 1924 and 24 July 1924.

¹⁹The Daily Oklahoman, 4 September 1924, 6 September 1924 and 21 September 1924. See also The Tonkawa News, 20 November 1924.

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when occupied.²⁰

Almost two months after the Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 moved into "...one of the largest Blue Lodge temples in the state," the building was formally dedicated. Because "...all Masonic lodges are dedicated to St. John the evangelist and St. John the Baptist," the lodge set the dedication for June 24th, the birthday of St. John the Baptist. After the "...impressive ceremonies of dedication, in which the temple received the elements of consecration and the blessing of the Grand Architect of the Universe (was) invoked,...," a number of prominent townsmen and Masons made several "...short talks." Most notable among the speeches was the pronouncement by Reverend Wilson that only one minor accident had occurred on the work site during construction. An unnamed workman was hit in the eye by falling mortar. Fortunately, the injury was "...slight, and no evil effects followed."²¹

As designed, the building was in the form of a Tau cross. The length of the full building measured 108 feet with the width varying between the front and back walls. The front one-story section above a basement measured sixty-six feet wide by thirty feet deep. Within this area on the first floor was a spacious, richly ornamented, tiled lobby. To the south of the lobby, was an office and "...lounging room..." for the men. The women were designated the "...reception room..." to the north of the lobby. The seventy-eight foot long back section of the building consisted of two stories above a full basement. Located on the first floor of this portion of the building was the auditorium for the Masonic auxiliary groups, the Eastern Star, the DeMolay and the Rainbow Girls. When the building was dedicated, this auditorium contained a stage "...fitted with appropriate (sic) scenery and drops." The lobby, balcony and lodge room on the second floor were dedicated to the exclusive use of the Blue Lodge of Masons. The very bottom level of the building, the basement, contained a spacious dining room and kitchen, as well as the heating and ventilation plants. The building was equipped throughout by "...magnificent electric light fixtures."²²

Interestingly, the chicken dinner prepared by the Eastern Star for the dedication event was served in the high school auditorium, rather than the temple facilities. This, however, was likely due to a lack of furnishings and other necessities. When the building was dedicated, it was noted that only "Some of the lodge furniture has been installed." Descriptively, the furnishings were proclaimed to be "...of massive yet artistic design in keeping with the interior finishings." Further indicating all was not complete in the building, a quilt made by the Past Matrons Club of the Eastern Star was auctioned at the dedication event with the money going "...toward a fund which they are

²⁰Ibid., 18 January 1925 and 30 April 1925. See also The Tonkawa News, 16 April 1925.

²¹The Tonkawa News, 14 May 1925 and 25 June 1925.

²²The Tonkawa News, 25 June 1925.

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accumulating for some furnishing for their quarters in the temple.” Previously, the group raised an additional \$60 by selling places on the quilt for names.²³

Even before completion of the building, the lodge was anticipated to be on “...the list of Tonkawa’s important buildings.” Through to the present time, the Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 A.F. and A.M. remains a resource of architectural note in the community. The Classical Revival style of the building sets it apart from the surrounding, predominately Commercial style resources of the central business district. The restrained landscaping around the building also differentiates it. Within the community as a whole, the building’s clear expression of its Masonic purpose distinguishes it. The various Masonic symbols incorporated into the exterior design forever mark the building, particularly in combination with the carefully executed, highly ornamental interior. The Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 A.F. & A.M. is an excellent example of a Classical Revival style, social building. Although an assortment of fine civic, commercial, social and religious buildings were erected the same time as the Masonic Lodge, as well as before and after, the Freemasonry building is without equal in the community.²⁴

Also contributing to the building’s significance is its importance as a local example of the work of Hawk and Parr. Responsible for the design of numerous buildings statewide, this architectural firm ranks among the state’s best in the first half of the twentieth century. As evidenced in the functional but yet highly ornamental Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 A.F. & A.M., the pair contributed immeasurably to Oklahoma’s built landscape. Foreseen as “...one of the finest such buildings in the entire southwest and one that the citizens of the city will be proud to boast of,” the Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 A.F. & A.M. merits recognition for its architectural significance as an outstanding example of mid-1920s, Classical Revival style, Masonic architecture.²⁵

²³Ibid.

²⁴Ibid., 5 June 1924.

²⁵Ibid., 5 June 1924.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 25-27, Block 18, Original Townsite, Tonkawa, Kay County, Oklahoma.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries include the property historically associated with the Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 A.F. & A.M.