

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 3 1979 NOV 29 1979
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Morocco Temple

AND/OR COMMON

Morocco Temple Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles, Mystic Shrine of Jacksonville

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

219 Newnan Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Jacksonville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

3rd

STATE

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY

Duval

CODE

031

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER: Social

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Morocco Temple Association

STREET & NUMBER

219 Newnan Street

CITY, TOWN

Jacksonville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Florida

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Duval County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Jacksonville

STATE

Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Cultural Resource Survey of Duval County

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Florida Division of Archives, History & Records Management

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE FL. 32301

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The three-story Morocco Temple building is constructed of reinforced concrete with applied terra cotta decorative details. The original 105' wide x 160' deep building is divided into three sections from west (entrance) to east (rear) with the west facade itself articulated in three parts - a recessed three-story entrance pavilion with flanking two-story pavilions having subsidiary entrances. In addition to the entrance and stair lobby which provides vertical circulation to the auditorium and banquet rooms, the western portion of the building contains smaller club rooms or offices. The second section or central block is four bays deep and contains major public spaces - a 1,300-1,500 seat auditorium on the third floor and a large banquet hall on the second. The rear or west section is only slightly expressed and devoted to support facilities, e.g., the stage and kitchen on their respective floors. One-story additions expanding the Temple's facilities were added to the south (a ballroom) and east (rear) in 1962.¹

Exterior detailing is largely restricted to the entrance facade, particularly the central three-story pavilion. The main entrance is set within a two-story battered architrave with a massive transom carried on squat Egyptian style columns (terra cotta). Above the transom are tinted art glass sashes vertically arranged. Egyptian motifs, e.g., winged disks, rondels and stylized cobras are applied symmetrically about the architrave while free-standing sphinx-like sculpture flanks the entrance.

Vertically grouped windows with massive square mullions are located on the third story of the entrance pavilion. The grouping is flanked by massive, abstract terra cotta brackets. Horizontal rectilinear fins are found on the third story fenestration of the center entrance pavilion and similar fins are found over the secondary entrances on the west facade and on the auditorium windows of the north and south elevations. Window mullions similar to those of the entrance pavilion also appear in the subsidiary locations.

Originally, a deep galvanized iron cornice (really a sunshade), with a continuous geometric design defined the window heads of the third-story fenestration on the north and south elevations as well as the west facade. This was removed sometime between 1956 and 1962.² Additional alterations in 1962 included the installation of air conditioning, blocking-in most windows on the north and south elevations and putting a suspended ceiling in the auditorium. In 1967, many of the original wooden window sashes were replaced with aluminum ones.³

¹"Morocco Temple," Historic American Building Survey, August, 1975, n.p., n.p.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

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 checked="" 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 1910

~~BUILDER~~/ARCHITECT Henry John Klutho

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Morocco Temple, headquarters for the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of Jacksonville, is significant for its community association and for its architectural style. It was completed in 1911 according to the design of Henry John Klutho (1873-1964), the well-known Florida architect.

Jacksonville's Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine was organized in June, 1888, and was the 45th such chapter to be established in the United States.¹ It was the first in Florida although its jurisdiction encompassed all of Alabama and Georgia as well. The steady growth² from its founding in 1888 precipitated the decision to construct new facilities. As a result, the Order commissioned H. J. Klutho to design a new headquarters building in downtown Jacksonville.

Klutho's prolific and diverse career spanned much of the first half of the twentieth century. His fortuitous appearance in Jacksonville just after the devastating fire of May, 1901³ led to an impressive number of architectural commissions beginning with the office building for Dyal, Upchurch and Co. (1901). Other important Jacksonville commissions included the City Hall (1902); the Public Library (1904); the YMCA Building (1907); the Bisbee Building (1908), Jacksonville's "pioneer skyscraper;"⁴ and several other major commercial buildings. Klutho's contribution to the rebuilding of Jacksonville was acknowledged by an obituary which referred to him as "Designer of the Skyline."⁵ His contribution to Florida's architectural heritage also includes the design of the state's first official governor's residence (1906) as well as the east (entrance) and west (rear) extensions (1922) to the state capitol in Tallahassee.

Plans for the new temple were announced in January, 1910 after the Morocco Temple Association had been organized for the purpose, "of erecting a two-story reinforced concrete auditorium and club house . . ." ⁶ at the southeast corner of Monroe and Newnan Streets. One of the major features of and motivating factors for the new facility was an auditorium with a seating capacity between 4,000 and 5,000. This feature was seen by the Shriners as an important addition to Jacksonville which would, "put the city in a position to attract national conventions of every character."⁷ Construction by the Southern Ferro-Concrete Company (Atlanta, Georgia) was underway by August, 1910⁸ and the building was formally dedicated ten months later on May 12, 1911 with splendid and public fanfare.⁹

(See Continuation Sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less Than One (1)

UTM NOT VERIFIED

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,7 4,3,7|0,4,0 3,3|5,5|1,2,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 1 (except E 30 feet of S ½), W ½ of Lot 2, all of Lots 4 and 5, Block 9, Harts Map of Jacksonville.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dan G. Deibler, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Florida Division of Archives, History & Records Management 7/20/79

STREET & NUMBER

The Capitol

DATE

TELEPHONE

(904) 487-2333

CITY OR TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE XX

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

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

11-29-79
11/26/79

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED	OCT 3 1979
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Although the design was described as "unique and pleasing," Klutho's work is a curious blend of Egyptian motifs (papyrus capitals, winged suns) and Prairie Style abstractions (finned window mullions) on a composition suggestive of Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple (1906), in Oak Park, Illionis. The exotic Near Eastern atmosphere was carried through to the interior with obelisks used as newel posts and floor mosaics executed in designs reminiscent of oriental rugs. As completed, the third-floor auditorium was much reduced (to a 1,300-1,500 seating capacity) but was lavishly appointed with wall murals of desert caravans painted by George Ruckes and Amiclore Borgheal and a "deep smoke blue" celestial ceiling with a central golden moon and an appropriate company of electrical stars.¹⁰

The Morocco Temple has continued to serve as a meeting place for one of Jacksonville's oldest fraternal organizations and stands as one of the most unusual examples of the architectural work of Henry John Klutho.

¹Horace Fretwell, "Birth and Growth of Morocco Temple A.A.O.N.M.S.," Morocco Temple Yearbook 1888-1955 (Jacksonville, Fl.: Douglas Printing Company, 1955), p. 4.

²Ibid.

³Thomas Frederick Davis, History of Jacksonville and Vicinity, 1513-1924 (Gainesville, Fl.: University of Florida, 1968), p. 225.

⁴Ibid., p. 224.

⁵Jacksonville Florida Times-Union, 4 March 1964.

⁶Florida Times-Union, 24 January 1910, p. 5.

⁷Ibid.

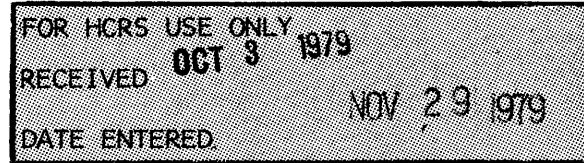
⁸Ibid., 8 August 1910, p. 12.

⁹Ibid., 3 May 1911, p. 8.

¹⁰Ibid.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Davis, Thomas Frederick. History of Jacksonville and Vicinity, 1513-1924.
Gainesville, Florida: University of Florida, 1968.

Fretwell, Horace. "Birth and Growth of Morocco Temple A.A.O.N.M.S.,"
Morocco Temple Yearbook 1888-1955.

Historic American Building Survey, August, 1975, "Morocco Temple."
n.p., n.p., 1975.

Jacksonville Florida Times-Union, January 24, 1910.

_____ August 8, 1910.

_____ May 3, 1911.

_____ March 4, 1964.