

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _____ Page _____

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 09000150 Date Listed: 3/17/2009

Prince Hall Masonic Temple Los Angeles CA
Property Name County State

Historic Resources Associated with African Americans in Los Angeles MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper 3/17/09
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Geographical Data:

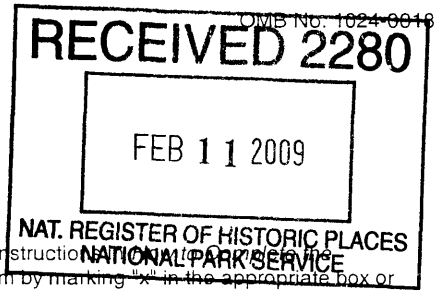
The correct U.T.M. Reference Coordinates are: 11 383980 3762373

These clarifications were confirmed with the CA SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instruction National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Prince Hall Masonic Temple

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1050 E. 50th Street N/A not for publication

city or town Los Angeles N/A vicinity

state California code CA county Los Angeles code 037 zip code 90011

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
William Wayne Moore 4 FEB 2009
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
California Office of Historic Preservation
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 the Keeper BP R Date of Action 3/17/09

Prince Hall Masonic Temple
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic Resources Associated with African Americans in Los Angeles

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL - Meeting Hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL - Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS – Commercial Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
roof Synthetic
walls Brick
other

Narrative Description

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

Prince Hall Masonic Temple
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

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.)

Property is:

- 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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage - Black

Period of Significance

1926 - 1958

Significant Dates

1926 – Building Constructed

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository:

Prince Hall Masonic Temple
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

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	11	384120	3762853	3	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	4	—	—	—

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Assessor Parcel Number 5108-015-005, which corresponds to the attached map.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) The legal lot the building historically and currently occupies.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Teresa Grimes

organization Christopher A. Joseph & Associates date 6/01/08

street & number 523 W. 6th Street, Suite 1134 telephone (213) 417-4400

city or town Los Angeles state CA zip code 90014

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 Prince Hall Masons Association

street & number 1050 E. 50th Street telephone _____

city or town Los Angeles state CA zip code 90011

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Prince Hall Masonic Temple
Los Angeles, California

DESCRIPTION

The Prince Hall Masonic Temple is located on the south side of East 50th Street in the City of Los Angeles. The building occupies its entire legal lot and has no landscaping. Single-family residences occupy the rest of the street. The two-story un-reinforced masonry building has a rectangular shape and a flat roof. It is very simple in design and almost appears to be commercial in use. It retains all aspects of integrity.

The street-facing (north) elevation is symmetrically organized and faced with medium brown brick. It is divided into three bays by pilasters. The middle bay contains the main entrance to the building. The main entrance is composed of a set of non-original slab doors flanked by narrow sidelights. Above the doors in a transom area is a painted sign that reads "Masonic Temple, 1050." A flat metal canopy extends over the main entrance. A metal blade sign is attached between the central and eastern bays. It reads "Prince Hall Masons."

A dark red brick is used to outline rectangular panels between the first and second stories and along the parapet. The same contrasting brick is used to delineate the pilasters as well as the sills and lintels. The only decorative element on the building is a simple cast stone capital near the top of the pilasters. The side bays have large multi-paned steel sash windows on the first and second stories. The same window type is found on the second story of the central bay as well.

The side and rear elevation are very utilitarian in design. They are faced with a soft-fired brick that has been painted. The windows are also multi-paned steel sash that are generally distributed evenly across the facades. Some of the window openings are smaller than others.

The only apparent exterior alteration appears to be the replacement of the front doors. The building permit records indicate a limited number of interior alterations. In 1941 a chimney and baring wall were removed and a steel I-beam was installed. In 1953 the rear doors were replaced and steps to the stage were added. In 1933 and 1971 earthquake damage was repaired.

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Prince Hall Masonic Temple
Los Angeles, California

SIGNIFICANCE

The Prince Hall Masonic Temple is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A as it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. It meets the registration requirements for club buildings outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) Form for Historic Resources Associated with African Americans in Los Angeles. It is significant at the local level in the context of civic engagement. Constructed in 1926, the Prince Hall Masonic Temple is significant as one of two club buildings remaining in Los Angeles that were founded by and for African Americans.

Clubs and organizations played a significant role in the social history of black Angelenos. While some clubs were organized for purely social purposes, others worked to improve the lives of African Americans through charitable and political activities. The Order of Odd Fellows, Order of the Eastern Star, Order of Elks, and the Prince Hall Masons were “colored chapters” of national fraternal orders, while the Twelve Knights and Daughters of Tabor were founded by African Americans. The 1921 City Directory documents no less than 33 chapters of such fraternal orders. These orders promoted morality, charity, and community service among its membership.

On March 6, 1775 an African American named Prince Hall was made a Master Mason in Irish Constitution Military Lodge No. 441, along with 14 other African Americans. When the Military Lodge left the area, the African Americans were given the authority to meet as a lodge and conduct Masonic funerals, but not to confer degrees nor to do other Masonic work. These individuals applied for and obtained a Warrant for Charter from the Grand Lodge of England in 1784 and formed African Lodge #459. This led to a tradition of separate, predominantly African American jurisdictions in North America, which are known collectively as Prince Hall Freemasonry. Widespread racism and segregation in North America made it impossible for African Americans to join many mainstream lodges, and many mainstream Grand Lodges in North America refused to recognize as legitimate the Prince Hall Lodges and Prince Hall Masons in their territory.

In 1926 the black Masons of Los Angeles had constructed the Prince Hall Masonic Temple on 50th Street, just off South Central Avenue. They had been meeting at 1209 South Central Avenue, a building that was shared by numerous other societies and fraternal organizations. During the 1930s several chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star were also meeting at the Prince Hall Masonic Temple. The construction of the building reflects the movement of the African American community south along the Central Avenue corridor.

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Prince Hall Masonic Temple
Los Angeles, California

REFERENCES

Building Permits

Sanborn Map, 1950, vol. 4

Prince Hall Freemasonry, www.wikipedia.org

Flamming, Douglas. *Bound for Freedom: Black Los Angeles in Jim Crow America*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005.

“Prince Hall Masonic Temple Improvement Association sponsored by members of Unity Temple Lodge #22, F & AM (colored masons) has filed articles of incorporation to erect new lodge hall,” *Southwest Builder & Contractor*, 11/13/1925, p. 58.

“Los Angeles Consistory Celebrates Annual Founder’s Day,” *Los Angeles Sentinel*, 11/7/1974, p. C5.

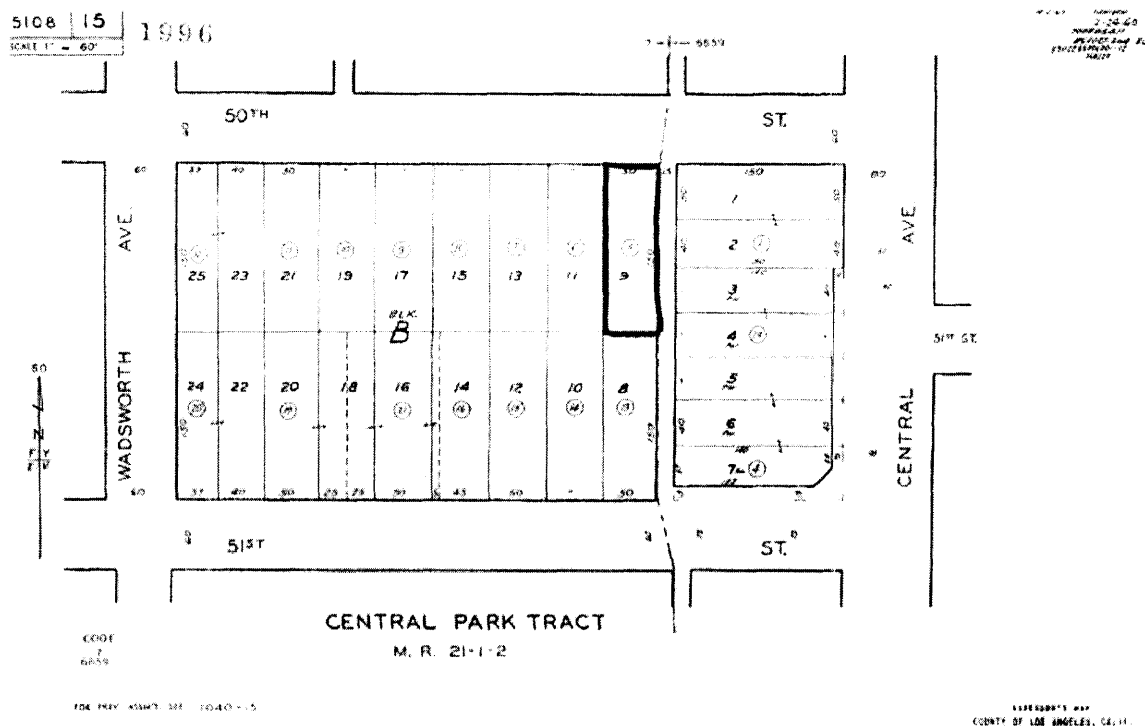
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Prince Hall Masonic Temple
Los Angeles, California

SKETCH MAP



Property boundary outlined in bold
Source: Los Angeles County Tax Assessor